FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-185
Monday
24 September 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-185 CONTENTS *24 September 1990*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Consultations Under Way for Five-Party Summit *[MENA]* 1
RFL Reports Expulsions, 'War of Diplomats' 1
Radio Examines Arab Attitudes on Jordan *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1

Islamic Affairs

'Martyrs Group' Threatens Forces in Saudi Arabia *[AFP]* 2
Islamic Leadership Secretariat Issues Statement *[Tripoli TV]* 2
Islamic Call Emergency Meeting Continues *[JANA]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Chairs Leadership Meeting on Gulf *[Sanaa VOP]* 2
PLO Holds Emergency Meeting in Tunis on Gaza *[Algiers Radio]* 3
Fatah, Hamas Statement on Unity, Joint Approach *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 3
PLO Protests Belgian Minister's Statement *[Sanaa VOP]* 4
Shaykhs Accused of 'Bullying' Palestinians *[Baghdad VOP]* 4
Paper Condemns Palestinian Support for Iraq *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Sep]* 4
Commentary Views 'U.S.-Zionist Aggression' *[Baghdad VOP]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Economy To Be Market-Based From 1 Jan *[APS]* 6
Dissolution of Security Body Announced *[Algiers Radio]* 6

Egypt

More Reinforcements To Be Sent to Saudi Arabia *[RFL]* 6
Commentary on Saddam Signs of 'Nervous Breakdown' *[MENA]* 6
Al-Sharif Views Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait *[MENA]* 6
'Abd-al-Majid Recovers, Resumes Work 22 Sep *[MENA]* 7

Libya

'Arafat Arrives, Received by Al-Qadhdhafi *[Tripoli International]* 7
Sudanese Delegation Arrives for Visit *[JANA]* 7

Mauritania

Opposition Sources Say 10 Dissidents Released *[AFP]* 7

Morocco

Laraki, Cabinet View Privatization Proposals *[MAP]* 7

Tunisia

Prime Minister To Head Delegation to Iraq *[Tunis Radio]* 8

Police Arrest Fundamentalists Outside Mosque *[AFP]* 8
Government Rules on Circulation of Two Papers *[Paris International]* 8

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Prime Minister Receives USIA Director Gelb *[WAKH]* 9
Prime Minister Praises Iranian Gulf Policy *[Tehran Radio]* 9

Kuwait

Amir, Heir Receive Diplomats in Al-Ta'if *[SPA]* 9
Defense Minister Says War Would End Quickly *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 24 Sep]* 9
Finance Minister Asserts Confidence in Liberation *[SPA]* 10
Government Rejects Iraqi Dissolution of Airline *[Riyadh Radio]* 11
Opposition Figure Denies Rejection of Al-Sabah *[MENA]* 11
Unified Resistance Issues First Communique *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Sep]* 11
Resistance Reportedly Kills 15 Iraqi Troops *[Cairo AL-ANBA' 17 Sep]* 12
  Claims Nine Iraqis Killed *[Riyadh Radio]* 12
Iraqi Soldiers Said To Execute Kuwaiti Doctors *[London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI 16 Sep]* 13

Qatar

French Defense Minister, Delegation Arrive *[WAKH]* 13
  Confers With Officials, Departs *[WAKH]* 13

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Address Renews Call for Iraqi Withdrawal *[SPA]* 13
Defense Minister Holds News Conference 22 Sep *[SPA]* 14
Foreign Ministry Issues Communique on Expulsions *[SPA]* 15
Statement Reviews Withdrawal of Yemeni Privileges *[Riyadh Radio]* 15
Oil Minister on Overdue Jordanian Account *[SPA]* 15
Deputy Prime Minister Views Iraqi Invasion *[Riyadh Radio]* 16
Khafji Border Officials Arrest 150 Iraqi 'Agents' *[AFP]* 17

United Arab Emirates

French Senate Delegation Arrives for Visit *[WAKH]* 17
Defense Minister Receives Italian Navy Commander *[WAKH]* 17

Yemen

Salih Speaks on Crisis Stance, Foreign Presence *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
Foreign Ministry Source Condemns Saudi Measures *[Sanaa Radio]* 18

IRAQ

RCC Statement Threatens Saudi Oil Fields, Israel *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
AFP Reporter Says Turkish Border Closes *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 21
Government Expels Military Attaches, Diplomats *[INA]* 21
Paper Assails Expulsion of Press Advisers *[INA]* 21
Government Decides Not To Attend UNGA Session *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
UN Protest Lodged on Oil Tanker Search 14 Sep *[INA]* 22
Nation Prepared for 'Protracted Battle' *[Amman TV]* 22
Paper Says U.S. Put Other Troops on Frontline *[INA]* 22
'Authorized' Spokesman Responds to Bush Statements *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
INA Editor Reacts to Bush Terrorist Warning *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
Commentary Questions U.S. Mideast Involvement *[Baghdad International]* 24
Foreign Women, Children Leave Baghdad 22 Sep *[INA]* 25
Foreign Nationals Praise Saddam Initiatives 25
  21 Sep *[INA]* 25
  22 Sep *[INA]* 26

Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives in Baghdad *[INA]* 27
    Confers With Ramadan *[INA]* 27
    Delivers Message to Saddam *[INA]* 27
    Departs 23 Sep *[INA]* 28
Correction to Deadline for Return to Iraq, Kuwait 28

ISRAEL

Levi Leaves for UN; Others for IMF Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
    New Peace Moves Not Authorized *[DAVAR 23 Sep]* 29
    Levi Interviewed on Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
'Secret Initiatives' for Talks With Arab States *['AL HAMISHMAR 23 Sep]* 30
Egypt Asks for Restricted Transit From Jordan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30

JORDAN

King Husayn Addresses America 22 Sep *[Amman TV]* 31
Prince Hasan Talks With Arab Americans *[Amman TV]* 35
Energy Minister Announces Cutoff of Saudi Oil *[Amman TV]* 38
House Calls for Arab Meeting To Solve Crisis *[Amman Radio]* 39
Moroccan Proposal on Arab League Session Accepted *[Amman Radio]* 39

LEBANON

New Constitution Law Heralds 'Second Republic' *[VOL]* 40
    Al-Huss Lauds Reform Law *[Beirut Radio]* 40
    'Awn Says Amendments 'Contestable' *[VOM]* 40
British Negotiate With Fadlallah on Hostages *[AFP]* 41
    Waite's Release 'Soon' *[Cairo Radio]* 41
    Belgian Hostages 'In Good Health' *[Beirut Radio]* 42
New Group Threatens Western Troops in Gulf *[AFP]* 42
Incidents of Shelling, Fighting Reported 42
    'Awn Forces Shell East Areas *[VOL]* 42
    Four Said Killed by 'Awn Men *[RFL]* 42
    Two Die in Southern Suburb *[VOL]* 42
    Iqlim Al-Tuffah Clashes *[Beirut Radio]* 42
    Five Dead Reported *[VOL]* 43
    Night Curfew Imposed *[RFL]* 43
    Lebanese Forces Units Fighting *[Beirut Radio]* 43
    SSNP Member Assassinated *[RFL]* 43
'Awn Speech Marks Second Year in Office *[The Lebanese Radio]* 43
Defense Minister, Ja'ja' Discuss Cabinet Moves *[VOL]* 45
Fadlallah Views U.S. 'Plans' for Gulf, Arabs *[Tehran]* 45
Finance Minister Leaves for Washington Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 45
    Central Bank Governor Departs *[VOL]* 45
    Central Bank Reveals Losses *[VOM]* 45

SYRIA

Omani Minister, Al-Asad Discuss Gulf Situation *[Damascus Radio]* 46
    Confers With Khaddam *[Damascus Radio]* 46
    Departs 19 Sep *[Damascus Radio]* 46
Media on Importance of Al-Asad Visit to Iran 46
    Damascus Radio 46
    Al-BA'TH *[Damascus Radio]* 47
    TISHRIN *[Damascus Radio]* 47

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Kabul Arrests Army Generals for Plotting Coup *[Tehran Radio]* 48

- Islamic Party Offers Saudi Arabia Support *[SPA]* ... 48
- Prime Minister Receives Russian Delegation *[BAKHTAR]* ... 48
- Defense Minister Receives USSR Delegation *[Kabul Radio]* ... 48
- State Units in Operations Against 'Extremists' *[Kabul Radio]* ... 49
- Weapons, Ammunition Seized From Extremists *[Kabul Radio]* ... 49
- Fuel Situation Stable After Heavy Fighting *[AFP]* ... 49

India

- Air Force Planes To Evacuate Gulf Refugees *[Delhi Radio]* ... 50
- Radio Details Status of Refugees' Whereabouts *[Delhi Radio]* ... 50
- Spokesman Defends Embassy Closing in Kuwait *[Delhi Radio]* ... 50
- Army Called To Control Antireservation Agitation *[Delhi Radio]* ... 50
- BJP To Abstain From Integration Council Meeting *[Delhi Radio]* ... 51
- Elections in Punjab Ruled Out Before 10 Nov *[Delhi Radio]* ... 51

Iran

- Syria's Al-Asad Arrives in Tehran 22 Sep *[IRNA]* ... 51
  - Reportedly May Discuss Hostages *[AFP]* ... 52
  - Comes 'With Great Enthusiasm' *[IRNA]* ... 52
  - Holds First Round of Talks *[Tehran Radio]* ... 53
  - Further on First Round of Talks *[IRNA]* ... 53
  - Welcomed by President at Banquet *[Tehran Radio]* ... 54
  - Gives Speech at Banquet *[Damascus Radio]* ... 55
  - Visits Shrine in Mashhad *[IRNA]* ... 56
  - Meets With Mashhad Officials *[Damascus Radio]* ... 56
  - Discusses Gulf With Khamene'i *[Damascus Radio]* ... 56
  - Dicusses Israel With Khamene'i *[IRNA]* ... 56
  - Continues Talks With President *[Damascus Radio]* ... 57
  - Visit Praised by Velayati *[Damascus Radio]* ... 57
  - Extends Tehran Visit *[IRNA]* ... 57
- Commentaries Consider Visit ... 58
  - IRNA Views Syrian Role ... 58
  - ABRAR Views Visit, Stance *[IRNA]* ... 58
  - Tehran Radio on Significance ... 59
- Syrian Foreign Minister Meets With Velayati *[Damascus Radio]* ... 60
- President Says Iran Can Prevent War in Gulf *[Tehran Radio]* ... 60
- Hashemi-Rafsanjani Conducts Friday Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* ... 61
- Media Review Letters From President to Saddam ... 65
  - 2 May Letter *[Tehran TV]* ... 65
  - 18 June Letter *[Tehran Radio]* ... 66
  - 'Last' Letter *[Tehran Radio]* ... 68
- Saddam 'Annoyed' With Tehran Over Food Dispatch *[Flag of Freedom Radio]* ... 68
- *Paper on Possible Iraqi Oil Sale to Iran *[Paris LES ECHOS 17 Sep]* ... 68
- President Urges Maintenance of Combat Readiness *[IRNA]* ... 69
- Ground Forces Stage Amphibious Maneuvers *[Tehran Radio]* ... 69
- Soviet MiG-29 Fighters Delivered to Air Force *[Tehran Radio]* ... 69
- Defense Week To End With Anti-U.S. Marches *[Tehran Radio]* ... 69
- Official on FRG, USSR Nuclear Plant Links *[IRNA]* ... 69

Pakistan

- Further on Ishaq Khan Visit to Beijing ... 70
  - Spokesman Briefs Press 22 Sep *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 70
  - News Conference Held *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 70
- 'Heavy Loss of Life' Inflicted on Indian Troops *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 71
- Yaqub Khan To Address UN Assembly 28 Sep *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 71
- Premier Urges UN To Send Mission to Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 71
- Nation Reconsiders Cost of French Nuclear Deal *[Tokyo KYODO]* ... 71
- Former Minister Lasi Gets One-Year Sentence *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 71
- One Dead, 19 Injured in Peshawar Bombing *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 71

Inter-Arab Affairs

Consultations Under Way for Five-Party Summit

NC2209152690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1339 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Tunis, 22 Sep (MENA)—Intense Arab consultations are currently under way for holding a five-member summit conference grouping Moroccan King Hasan II, Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and King Husayn of Jordan.

Arab diplomatic sources revealed this to the MENA correspondent in Tunis, saying these consultations come as a result of talks between the Moroccan king, the Algerian president, and King Husayn during the tripartite summit conference held recently in Rabat to discuss an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

The Moroccan king telephoned King Fahd yesterday, and King Fahd and President Husni Mubarak had a telephone conversation the same day. These sources said that if impediments blocking the success of these consultations now under way between a number of Arab capitals are overcome, the five-member summit conference will be held in Rabat.

The sources were unanimous that the broad outline of the solution to the Gulf crisis agreed upon during the Rabat tripartite summit meetings includes the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and replacing them with Arab and international forces under the Arab League and UN supervision. The overview also includes the initiation of negotiations between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti sides to reach a peaceful settlement of the problems relating to their borders, the Warbah and Bubyan Islands, and al-Rumaylah Field, under Arab supervision, and providing guarantees necessary for the Gulf states to maintain the national security of the region.

RFL Reports Expulsions, 'War of Diplomats'

NC2209141790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] The war of diplomats that erupted last Thursday [20 September], after Iraqi soldiers entered the French Embassy in Kuwait, expanded today to the Iraqi-Jordanian front on one side and the American-Arab-West European front on the other.

Following the reciprocal expulsion of the American, West European, and Egyptian diplomats and military attaches from Baghdad and the Iraqi diplomats and military attaches from these countries, Jordanian diplomats joined the list of undesirable persons today, especially those in the Gulf states, because of Jordan's support for Iraq.

In a dispatch from Amman, AFP cited informed sources as saying that several Gulf states, especially Bahrain and Qatar, have expelled Jordanian experts and pilots who were attached to these states' armies. AFP noted that the expulsion decisions also included Jordanians who have been on training courses in the armed force of Gulf states, particularly in Saudi Arabia.

A high-ranking official in Amman affirmed earlier that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expelled a Jordanian diplomat after it had stopped supplying Jordan with oil. The Saudi deputy oil minister has stated that he has no knowledge of this decision, noting that Saudi Oil Minister Hisham al-Nadir alone can know about such a decision.

Meanwhile, informed Jordanian sources have stated that Saudi Arabia has suspended the decision to expel the Jordanian military attache in Riyadh and his aides, noting that negotiations are now under way between Saudi Arabia and Jordan to rescind the decision. The Iraqi expulsion decisions have included Egypt, the United States, France, West Germany, Britain, Spain, and Italy, which responded likewise to the Iraqi decisions.

Radio Examines Arab Attitudes on Jordan

JN2209142090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] The discrepancy in Arab attitudes toward the Gulf crisis has begun to reflect negatively on inter-Arab relations. According to authoritative sources in Amman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has decided to expel the Jordanian military attache and his assistants in the Jordanian Embassy in Riyadh. The same sources added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia then suspended the expulsion decision temporarily and that contacts are now taking place between Riyadh and Amman to cancel the expulsion decision.

Jordanian sources had earlier said that some other Gulf States, including Qatar and Bahrain, had recently expelled Jordanian military trainers and pilots attached to the armed forces of these states.

Jordanian Energy Minister Thabit al-Tahir said Saudi Arabia has ceased pumping oil to Jordan since Wednesday [19 September] night. It justified this measure by saying that Jordan had failed to pay its oil bill. An authoritative Jordanian source said these measures are among the pressures exerted on Jordan for rejecting the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf.

Saudi Petroleum Ministry Undersecretary 'Abd-al-'Aziz (Shnaybar) said today he had no knowledge of a decision by his ministry to stop pumping oil to Jordan. He added that Minister Hisham Nazir is the only one who might know of such a decision, which was confirmed by Amman sources, as we have already said, according to the latest information obtained by Randah Habib, our correspondent in the Jordanian capital.

[Habib] Political circles in Amman view the Saudi decision to stop pumping oil to Jordan as a sort of punishment for Amman's position on the Gulf crisis. It will be recalled that Jordan has condemned Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and maintained its recognition of the Amiri government. It objected, however, to the foreign forces' presence in the Arabian Peninsula. Saudi Arabia used a financial pretext to stop the flow of oil. It demanded that Jordan pay a $46 million bill, including $40 million dating back to 1985, from which Saudi King Fahd had ordered that Jordan be relieved. The Saudi request comes at a time when Jordan is suffering from economic and financial straits that have worsened with the international embargo imposed on Iraq.

Energy Minister Thabit al-Tahir stressed that closing this pipeline will lead to a large increase in the cost of imported oil, because Jordan will then be forced to import oil by ships via al-Aqabah port. A senior source told our radio that Jordan is still optimistic that Saudi Arabia will revoke its decision.

The same source also denied the reported expulsion of a number of Jordanian diplomats from Saudi Arabia. He stressed that all Jordanian Embassy staff in Riyadh and Jeddah are performing their work as usual.

Islamic Affairs

'Martyrs Group' Threatens Forces in Saudi Arabia

NC2209151790 Paris AFP in English 1507 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, Sept 22 (AFP)—A previously unknown organisation warned here Saturday [22 September] that it would attack Western forces in Saudi Arabia unless they were withdrawn within three days.

"There is no longer place for a Western atheist or an Arab traitor in our country. You have three days to repent, or you face certain death," the Islamic Martyrs Groups said in a statement delivered to Agence France-Presse.

"Leave our country. We no longer want impure hearts beating in the land of Islam," the organisation said in a handwritten Arabic statement, referring to Saudi Arabia where the holiest Muslim sites are located.

Several underground groups have condemned the deployment of more than 100,000 U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia since the Gulf crisis erupted with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2. But they have not until now issued specific threats against the U.S.-led multinational deployment, in which Egypt, Syria and Morocco are also taking part.

Addressing U.S. President George Bush, the latest statement said that if Iraqi President Saddam Husayn "reverses his decision to fight you, we will do it ourselves because we are convinced that your end is within our reach." It added: "God is with the believers. Jerusalem calls us and we will reply to the call. The battle has started in earnest and with God's help, may the heads of the atheists and of imperialism be chopped off."

Islamic Leadership Secretariat Issues Statement

LD2209215190 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1950 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] The work of the second meeting of the general Secretariat of the International Islamic Popular Leadership for this year concluded in Tripoli this evening. At the end of the meeting, a final statement was issued containing a number of important resolutions on Islam and Muslims in various regions of the world. They include assertion of the support and backing of the international Islamic popular leadership for the Palestinian people in their confrontation with the Zionist enemy and their right to the liberation of all occupied Palestine.

The General Secretariat affirmed that the Libyan initiative announced by the brother leader of the revolution to solve the Gulf crisis is considered a logical and realistic solution, and international legitimacy is for the UN and not the U.S. forces. It called for the withdrawal of foreign military forces from the area and the lifting of the blockade against Iraq and introduction of Arab and Islamic forces to replace the U.S. and Western forces currently in the Gulf.

The General Secretariat of the International Islamic Popular Leadership affirmed the need for Islamic minorities in the world to achieve their religious, cultural, and social rights, especially the Islamic minority of India, China, Albania, Yugoslavia, and the Islamic nations in the USSR.

Islamic Call Emergency Meeting Continues

LD2409100790 Tripoli JANA in English 0815 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Fateh [September] 24, Jamahiriya News Agency—The emergency session of the International Council of the Islamic Call continued yesterday in Tripoli discussing the international measures relating to this council.

The delegates also discussed the proposal aiming at promoting the work of this council making it compatible with the present stage worldwide regarding the international transformations.

The council, furthermore, discussed the paper presented on Islam and the transformations worldwide today. This paper is to be forwarded to the general conference of the Islamic Call to start its session today in the city of Tripoli.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Chairs Leadership Meeting on Gulf

JN2209184790 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, chaired a meeting of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis the day before yesterday. The meeting took up latest developments in the Gulf crisis, and explored how it could be resolved so as to spare the region devastation. They stressed the need to define an Arab-based solution to the crisis. The PLO meeting also explored ways to step up the heroic intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territory against the mounting repressive Israeli measures against the children of our people, not least in the Gaza strip and the al-Burayj camp. They also considered ways to ensure continued backing for the intifadah so as to enable it to cope with this ferocious campaign.

Brother Abu-'Ammar briefed the Palestinian leadership on the outcome of his recent Arab tour, which took him to Baghdad, Amman, Sanaa, and Khartoum

PLO Holds Emergency Meeting in Tunis on Gaza

LD2109215190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Under the leadership of Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, the PLO leadership held an emergency meeting in Tunis today to discuss the grave development of events in the occupied Gaza strip, where clashes continue between the Palestinians and the Israeli occupation forces.

Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, has said the clashes have been going on since this morning in al-Burayj [refugee] camp, stressing that the occupation forces have opened random and intensive fire which led to the fall of tens of Palestinians in the occupied Gaza strip.

In front of this serious escalation, Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif sent an appeal to the UN secretary-general, and to the chairman of the UN Security Council, urging them to urgently intervene to stop the Israeli massacres.

Mr. Abu-Sharif has revealed the Zionist administration has issued instructions to its forces to perpetrate mass crimes against the Palestinian people in the refugee camps in the occupied Gaza strip.

In these particular international circumstances, the question is: Will the UN Security Council respond with the same speed it used to move on the second day of the outbreak of the Gulf crisis?

On the other hand, the international atomic energy agency has exposed the Israeli obduracy, and adopted today in its 34th conference with a majority vote a new motion condemning Israel, and asking it to submit its nuclear installations to search operations.

Fatah, Hamas Statement on Unity, Joint Approach

JN2309140990 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Statement issued by the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas and the Fatah Central Committee; place and date not given]

[Text] O our patient and steadfast kinsfolk in Palestine. By your struggle you have displayed splendid examples of heroism and redemption as you fought against the country of falsehoods and those who support it with faithful hearts and strong creed. Thus, you were a model for all the peoples who demand their rights and freedom. You have paid for this by the blood of the martyrs and the suffering of those apprehended or wounded. We will remain committed to the struggle and fight the enemies with all means until God allows a clear victory.

O our patient kinsfolk: We have always believed that national unity is the most important means to victory. Our enemy has tried repeatedly to strike at it yet in vain, thanks to God in the first place, then to your awareness and sincerity. The enemy will not succeed, God permitting, to create a rift in our ranks and deal a blow to our unity.

O our struggling people: Some pathetic events took place in various areas in our dear homeland from which the enemy tried to benefit but it was defeated by our unity. In order to deny him this opportunity and channel all efforts toward confronting his brutality, the two parties formulated this document which organizes the relation for the coming stage. The following is the text of the document:

1. We will regard differences in opinion as natural and as a healthy phenomenon. Each group or individual has his own opinion and political line which must not be a reason for divisions or problems.

2. We will adopt constructive dialogue to end any conflicts that might occur. For this reason, a central committee and subcommittees will be formed in the region to rectify and contain events before they worsen.

3. We will end all pending problems, considering them closed, and turn a new page for the future.

4. We will respect the nation's creed, traditions, and feelings, and allow no one, regardless of who he might be, to violate them. We call on people to abide by God's religion in a wise manner and through good advice.

5. Mosques have their holy and sacred position in the conscience of our Muslim people. We stress their sanctity and holiness and the need for all to respect the mosques' imams and worshipers.

6. We will pool all our Palestinian people's capabilities and direct them against the Zionist enemy—its interests and agents. We should cooperate and coordinate in this respect.

7. We will protect the capabilities of our struggling people and their possessions and honors from any subversive hand. We reject extortion of money under any pretext.

8. We will work to preserve and protect national institutions, open their doors to all people without discrimination, respect their laws. We will consider scientific qualifications when employing people and do justice to all parties in this respect.

9. Each group has the right to carry out its activities without intervention anywhere in our dear homeland.

10. Groups should not exchange recriminations. Each group has the right to investigate its members.

11. Based on the contacts held between Fatah and the Unified National Leadership, they have agreed on the following:

a. To solve all prison problems. Hamas, like other groups, should be represented in all committees including the Higher Struggle Committee. The prison problems should be resolved through understanding and quiet dialogue.

b. The Unified National Leadership's statements and Hamas should be committed, as of Call No. 63 and Statement No. 65, to implementing the same activities in such a way that each movement will carry out the activities of the other movement as if they were its own.

12. Evacuees will be returned to their villages and jobs without being subjected to any harm.

13. The salaries of the Islamic University employees will be paid with no discrimination between one party and another. We will respect the university's laws, regulations, institutions and bodies.

O our struggling people: Our belief in God almighty and our belief in the unity and solidarity of our people is our strength and our weapon, and gives us stamina in the battle of the common fate to liberate al-Aqsa and the holy Palestinian soil. Let our nation know that we all believe in God, are proud of our true religion, and stress that Islam is entrenched in our hearts and our creed.

In order to immediately implement the essence and details of this document, we announce an official decision to all stone throwers and strike forces in which we call on them to stop internecine fighting, heal the rift, organize the joint struggle activities, maintain security for the civilians, and coordinate among themselves to direct public wrath against the enemy and its forces in order to attain triumph and victory and achieve freedom and liberation through God's will. The two parties also pledge to respect the document and fully implement it; God is our witness.

[Signed] Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas and Fatah Central Committee.

PLO Protests Belgian Minister's Statement

JN2106173990 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] The PLO has officially protested against the statement made by the Belgian foreign minister, and expressed its astonishment and great dismay over this statement because the allegations cited in the statement are unfounded. The PLO said such statements could increase tension in the region at a time when the PLO is seeking all ways and means to defuse the explosion, and to intensify efforts and endeavors to find a peaceful solution to the crisis on the basis of an Arab solution with international guarantees.

Brother Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and PLO representative in Tunisia conveyed the PLO's official protest during his meeting yesterday morning with the Belgian ambassador to Tunisia.

Shaykhs Accused of 'Bullying' Palestinians

JN2209065590 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 0603 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Shaykhs like those of Qatar are now bullying the Palestinian community that built their state. This is being done under the military American-Zionist presence, under which feet these shaykhs are lying. But accursed be they and their American-Zionist masters. The Palestinian people know how to protect themselves and their rights, and they know how to respond to those who have been unjust. O shaykhs of Qatar and others who are maliciously lying in wait for the Palestinian communities in their countries: Those who have given warning are pardoned.

Paper Condemns Palestinian Support for Iraq

PM2109145090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Sep 90 p 13

[Editorial: "Painful Questions And Answers"]

[Text] The Arab voices which were raised in the first week of August calling for condemnation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait did not aim to harm the Iraqi people, but, rather, aimed to rescue them and prevent a great Arab collapse. If there was at the time a total Arab consensus on condemning the Iraqi step, matters would have taken another turn. Perhaps a total consensus would have forced Iraq to reconsider its calculations and return to reason. A consensus on condemning the invasion was the last chance for an Arab solution to the crisis. No, in fact that consensus would have ensured that the fire and the problem were contained within the Arab house and resolved on the basis of the Arab League charter.

But that did not happen. The reason is simple, namely that some members of the Arab family chose not to condemn the Iraqi invasion and provided various excuses to justify that position. First and foremost among their excuses was their desire to maintain what they called their ability to embark on a mediation that would lead to an Arab solution to the crisis.

Undoubtedly dilemmas need mediation and intermediaries. And undoubtedly every Arab hoped and still hopes that the people's rights would be restored without any bloodshed or the destruction of institutions and energies which in the end are assets of the Arabs' present and future.

We say this although we realize the danger of borders' being obliterated by tanks. If that logic prevailed it would open the door to endless wars, expose minor powers to fear and concern, and turn every border point into a potential war awaiting the opportunity to break out.

Among the parties that refused to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was the PLO, although that invasion has inflicted on the Palestinian cause damages the implications of which are difficult to predict. The first of these damages is that attention has been diverted from the intifadah's developments, let alone the fact that the world is now talking about an Arab army's occupying a neighboring Arab state.

We are not trying to open files or wounds, as we have enough of them already. The severe hemorrhage exhausting the Arab body and destroying what remains of its ability to resist is enough. But the statement by an official Palestinian source that "the Palestinian community is exposed to practices by some officials who stayed in Kuwait and by some armed men" gives us pause for thought. The wording of the statement which includes several warnings and threats deserves more than just pause for thought or consideration. The question that imposes itself here is: Is that intended to fabricate a clash with the Kuwaiti resistance? And why, and in whose interests? These painful questions lead to painful answers that cause astonishment and double disapproval.

Commentary Views 'U.S.-Zionist Aggression'

JN2109111190 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1846 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Commentary by radio political commentator: "The U.S.-Zionist Peace and Arab Generosity"]

[Text] Despite the continuing clamor and sabre rattling surrounding the aggression being prepared by the United States and its allies from inside and outside the Arab region, and although the dimensions of the U.S.-Zionist aggression against the Arab nation and its frontiers in Palestine and Iraq have become exposed, certain quarters within the U.S. Administration insist on claiming that what they are seeking by escalating the war atmosphere and pushing more military concentrations into the Arab Gulf is to cause peace and security to prevail in the region. Yes, but in the American way. Thus, the security, stability, and indeed the superiority of the Zionist entity should be the cornerstone of this peace, which the U.S. Administration is trying to market in the region. With this being the ultimate objective of the U.S. policy, then it is not surprising for Shamir to declare that he was considering launching a peace initiative for the so-called Middle East crisis, but not before matters settle down in the Arab Gulf region. However, everyone knows how much Zionist circles are anxious to push matters toward a comprehensive explosion. In other words, Shamir sees no possibility for even talking about peace before U.S. aggression against Iraq actually takes place. And until aggressive preparations are completed, in accordance with the U.S.-Zionist design, Shamir works on the calls to realize the Zionist dream of a vast land for a great people. Thus, he is establishing a major foundation for this dream by intensifying Jewish settlement in occupied Palestine, inviting more world Jewry, and escalating his terrorist policies and repressive practices against the Palestinian people and their valiant intifadah.

Undoubtedly, Shamir realizes that his illusions cannot materialize unless the unified Arab will in the trench of defiance and resolve in Palestine and fraternal Iraq is hit. Definitely, Shamir declared that position only because he realizes that the U.S.-Zionist alliance has joint objectives and interests. Therefore, U.S. policy constants regarding the Zionist entity and its expansionist schemes in the Arab region must be reasserted in light of the required role at the current stage. Based on this fact, Washington's response did not take long. As U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney affirmed to his Zionist counterpart, Moshe Arens, Zionist military superiority is a top U.S. priority, and the most sophisticated U.S. war technology will find its way to Israel as soon as possible, since this weaponry is only going to be used against the Arab nation with the purpose of imposing U.S.-Zionist hegemony on the overall Arab scene.

Considering that the U.S. Administration has publicly declared a deficit in its balance of payments and that its preparations for an aggression in the Arabian Gulf are being financed by Arab funds, should we not rightfully ask about who will pay for the sophisticated U.S. weapons to the Zionist entity, in light of the enemy entity's inability to do so? [words indistinct] We do not believe that exploration, investigation, and fact-finding is needed to reach a clear answer. The same Arab funds will be paid for from the Arab treasury for that weaponry to the Zionist entity. In saying so, we are not being unjust to anyone. Has it not become clear that the oil revenues in the Arab Gulf states have now become a weapon in the hand of the Americans and Zionists? [Words indistinct] support for the intifadah which does not go much beyond words of commendation and admiration, and condemnation and denunciation. Supporting the intifadah, even in this way, does not provide an objective equilibrium in international politics. Therefore, they must support the other party, even if it is the primary enemy of the Arabs, by both paying for the U.S. weapons destined for it and deporting Palestinian families [words indistinct]. Both cases can be considered Arab generosity, which now goes beyond borders and oceans, and forgets the roses of Palestine, the people of Palestine, and the cause of Palestine.

Nonetheless, the masses of our Arab nation and our Palestinian people are well aware that what these agent regimes have paid and continue to pay to finance the U.S. aggression is part of their subservience to the United States. Our proud Arab masses have sound judgment and an unerring compass. In addition, they have a live memory and relentless determination, which the U.S.-Zionist enemy has known in many domains and in the daily confrontations that define the features of the new Arab age—the age of awakening, progress, and safeguarded rights. Our heroic masses and their free revolutionary vanguards are capable of rooting out those encroaching on the rights of our nation. Therefore, those who have been self-deluded into taking those arbitrary measures against the masses of our people in their countries and against our people's gigantic intifadah must be well aware that the day of judgment is coming—imminently and inevitably. Will they reconsider before it is too late?

Algeria

Economy To Be Market-Based From 1 Jan

LD2209093590 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 22 Sep (APS)—From 1 January 1991, the Algerian economy will be organized on the basis of market laws. This will take place after the legal, technical, and fiscal laws for the compulsory transfer of all economic public institutions to independence are completed within the coming three months.

This important aim, which is to be fulfilled as soon as possible, was specified to the members of the eight participation funds who held an informal meeting on Thursday [20 September], chaired by Prime Minister Hamrouche and attended by a number of ministers and senior officials.

Dissolution of Security Body Announced

LD2309001190 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] In a communique this evening, the Presidency of the Republic announced the dissolution of the DGDS, the General Commission for Documentation and Security [Delegation Generale a la Documentation et a la Securite]. The same communique specifies that the reorganization of the national security structures will be aimed at the improved implementation of their task of participation in the defense of national sovereignty and independence.

Egypt

More Reinforcements To Be Sent to Saudi Arabia

NC2109170190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Egypt has announced plans to send new military reinforcements to Saudi Arabia. This will raise the total number of Egyptian troops in the [Gulf] region to 35,000.

Commentary on Saddam Signs of 'Nervous Breakdown'

NC2309112390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0618 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR writes that the world's political experts and analysts have heard with satisfaction and relief the hard-line tone of threats obvious in Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's recent statements. They took it as strong and doubtless evidence of the beginning of a period of nervous breakdown and stress, an advanced stage of megalomania that makes the patient suffering from it believe he is capable of defeating the whole world by himself.

In its Sunday [23 September] commentary, the paper notes that the Iraqi dictator is not the only ruler to reach this stage, which usually precedes the inevitable end of any tyrant who is led by his aides and those benefiting from his insanity to believe that he alone is the messenger of divine providence sent to save the world from its pains and miseries.

The paper adds that Saddam Husayn walked a road along a sea of blood to become the sole leader of Iraq through his brilliance at treachery and betrayal and by sending people, mostly former aides and assistants, to the other world with his own hands or by those of his angels of death. All this is to blame for the sickness from which Baghdad's Saddam suffers, leading him to such a hopeless stage that the only remedy, according to psychiatrists, is eternal rest.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR says that the mental state revealed by Saddam Husayn's recent statements evokes pity for a man who is controlled by the same feelings as a mouse in a trap, running from corner to corner and banging his head against the walls in vain but nevertheless continuing his desperate attempts, just in case.

Al-Sharif Views Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait

NC2209190990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1637 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stressed that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait runs counter to all values, laws, and norms and that it would destroy the civilized Arab order and cause an imbalance in the current world order, the extent of which cannot be imagined. In a statement today, al-Sharif called for the return of fraternal Kuwait to its people and to its legitimate regime because that all organiztions of the international community dictate a need for it. He emphasized that the annexation of a sovereign state and member of the United Nations, namely Kuwait, to Iraq by force is outrageous, disgraceful, and unacceptable. He pointed out that the United Nations and the Security Council translated this stance into action through a host of successive unanimous resolutions calling for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate regime. In addition, all regional organizations condemned the invasion and endorsed similar resolutions.

Al-Sharif emphasized that what the Iraqi regime is doing is a naive and does not realize the perils of its actions. He asserted that according to the international law, the decision to invade and all subsequent decisions are null and void. He pointed out that the invasion of an Arab country by a fraternal state and forcing its people out are humanly unacceptable. He noted that the Iraqi regime's invasion of the fraternal State of Kuwait is considered to be a serious historic precedent and a heavy burden to the Arab citizens in Iraq. The Iraqi people are now headed toward the unknown and their rulers have so far failed to realize the seriousness of this outrageous adventure and entry into a military confrontation with the whole world. He noted that not since World War II has the world concurred on such a unanimous condemnation as it did in condemning the

Iraqi regime, isolating it from the existing international order. The Iraqi regime has placed its people before an unknown alternative, removed the word unity from the Arab dictionary for decades to come, and foiled all ambitious Arab plans aimed at the well-being and happiness of the coming generations. He said that the Iraqi regime has degraded Arab civilization in the eyes of the whole world, insulted the entire human community, and distorted the Arab image to the entire world.

Al-Sharif said: We have not yet lost hope for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. We hope that the Iraqi regime will respond to the peace appeals made by President Mubarak and the international community to save the area from war and devastation. He pointed out that Egypt believes that in order to render the political efforts successful and resolve the crisis, the Iraqi regime must respond to the peaceful approach, withdraw its forces from fraternal Kuwait, and restore the legitimate regime there. He pointed out that the development of events has reached a peak and cannot tolerate the Iraqi maneuvers that do not delude the world governments and peoples, because right must be returned to its rightful owners. He said that Egypt still appeals to the Iraqi regime to respond to the peace appeals before things reach the point of no return.

'Abd-al-Majid Recovers, Resumes Work 22 Sep

NC2209180490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, resumed work today after recovering from injuries received in a traffic accident two weeks ago.

'Abd-al-Majid started his activity by meeting with his office staff. They reviewed the situation in the area and the next stage of Egypt's diplomatic drive on the Arab and international levels.

Libya

'Arafat Arrives, Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2309233290 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Palestinian President 'Arafat arrived in Tripoli this morning. He made a statement to JANA after his arrival in which he said the visit is within the framework of efforts made by the brother leader of the revolution to find an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis distanced from any foreign intervention, and for the sake of the unity of the Arab stance, Arab security, and the future of our Arab nation.

Sudanese Delegation Arrives for Visit

LD2109153190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Sep (JANA)—Staff Colonel Bakri Hasan Salih, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon accompanied by a delegation on a visit to the great Jamahiriyah.

Mauritania

Opposition Sources Say 10 Dissidents Released

AB2109172690 Paris AFP in English 2037 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Dakar, Sept 20 (AFP)—Mauritania has freed 10 dissidents who were serving five-year jail terms for publishing a "Manifesto of the Oppressed Mauritanian Negro" in 1986, opposition sources based in the Senegalese capital said here Thursday [20 September].

The African Liberation Forces of Mauritania (FLAM) said the prisoners had been given a year's remission last year and were freed a week ago in the capital Nouakchott after being taken from prison at Aioun el Atrouss. It was believed they were barred from leaving the country, FLAM said. Those released included journalists Ibrahima Sarr and Nouakchott University lecturers Seydou Kane and Ibrahima Sall.

The black opposition movement said it expected three or four more "manifesto" prisoners to be freed at the end of next month.

Mauritania's Negroes comprise about one-third of the population and have often complained of discrimination in the civil service and the army by the majority Moors of Arab/Berber stock.

Morocco

Laraki, Cabinet View Privatization Proposals

LD2109141290 Rabat MAP in English 1244 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Rabat, Sept 21 (MAP)—The meeting of the Moroccan cabinet council, held here Thursday [20 September] under the chairmanship of Premier Azeddine Laraki, examined several implementation draft decrees on the transfer of public enterprises to the private sector.

During the meeting, Minister Delegate in Charge of Economic Affairs and Privatization Moulay Zine Zahidi read a paper on the works of the ministerial commission in charge of examining the decrees.

The decrees will be further dealt with by members of the council during an upcoming meeting.

Tunisia

Prime Minister To Head Delegation to Iraq

LD2209120190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning met with Prime Minister Dr. Hasmed Karaoui and Foreign Minister Habib Boulares at the Republican palace in Carthage.

The president asked the prime minister to head a delegation to Baghdad comprised of Foreign Minister Boulares, and members of the Chamber of Deputies Beji Kaid el-Sebsi and Mabeouk Azzal. The delegation will deliver a written message from President Ben Ali to President Saddam Husayn. The message concerns the efforts being made to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Police Arrest Fundamentalists Outside Mosque

NC2309115790 Paris AFP in English 1018 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Tunis, Sept 23 (AFP)—Police arrested several dozen activists and supporters of the fundamentalist Islamic movement Nahda on their exit from the Al-Fatah mosque in central Tunis late Saturday [23 September], the movement said Sunday.

Nahda officials said a heavy concentration of police units surrounded and sealed off the mosque for more than three hours.

There has been no official information on the operation, which apparently took place without violent incident.

The Nahda movement is not recognised by the Tunisian authorities.

Witnesses said that many people who were in the mosque at the time—either fundamentalist activists or simple worshippers—shut themselves in and refused to leave on seeing the big police presence. After long negotiations, they left the mosque in small groups, and it was then that police who had set up a cordon close by made their arrests.

The Nahda sources said the police arrived because of the presence of numerous fundamentalists who had come to listen to the speeches of three young militants after evening prayers.

A law relating to mosques has since 1988 banned such speeches by unauthorised persons.

Fundamentalists have criticised this law as unconstitutional. The ban deprives them of a perfect forum for politico-religious speeches aimed at Muslim congregations.

The Tunisian police have stepped up their presence in the capital following street demonstrations by fundamentalist groups in protest against the police killing of one of their number on September 7.

He was shot dead by a policeman while distributing leaflets outside a mosque.

Government Rules on Circulation of Two Papers

LD2309225890 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Concerning the revival of tension between the Tunisian Government and Tunisian fundamentalists, several dozen members and sympathizers of the pro-Islamic movement [Nahda] were arrested last night by police on leaving a mosque in the center of the capital. [passage omitted]

After a three-month suspension the weekly paper of the pro-Islamic movement reappeared on the capital's newstands yesterday. On the other hand, the latest editon of EL BADIL, the weekly of the Communist Workers' Party, has been seized. According to the officials of this paper [as heard] this measure was taken following the publication of articles likely to harm relations between Tunisa and friendly countries.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Receives USIA Director Gelb

JN2209173190 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Manama, Sept 22 (GNA)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah received here today the director of the U.S Information Agency Mr. Bruce Gelb, currently visiting Bahrain.

During the meeting, the prime minister expressed his appreciation of the U.S stance towards international efforts to restore the legtimacy in Kuwait and achieve an Iraqi withdrawal. He expressed confidence that international efforts, supported by international opinion would achieve success.

The premier confirmed that the Kuwaiti people will return to their country stronger than before to build Kuwait again.

Shaykh Khalifah also expressed sympathy towards Arab and Asian victims of the Iraqi invasion, who suffered in their attempts to return home. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Praises Iranian Gulf Policy

LD2309205690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister of Bahrain, while thanking the Islamic Republic of Iran for its position on the Persian Gulf crisis, said: It has become clear to us now that the foreign policy of Iran is based on firm and stable principles.

According to a Central News Unit report, Bahrain prime minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al-Khalifah, at a meeting with our country's charge d'affaires, also discussed the recent crisis in the Persian Gulf region.

Kuwait

Amir, Heir Receive Diplomats in Al-Ta'if

LD2109185390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1825 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 21 Sep (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, received today the heads of Kuwaiti diplomatic missions abroad on the occasion of the convention of their conference in Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was attended by Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah; Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah; the ministers; the under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; and a number of senior officials at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent also received the ambassadors in the presence of the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. His highness reviewed with them the latest developments of the situation and the work toward the liberation of Kuwait from the claws of the oppressive Iraqi occupation. Then they all had lunch with the heir apparent.

Defense Minister Says War Would End Quickly

AU2409091890 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 24 Sep 90 p 194

[Unattributed interview with Defense Minister Shayk Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, who is currently residing at the Sheraton Hotel in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia; place and date not given; headlined "Some Things Will Come to Grief"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] It seems that the Kuwaiti Army and the Government were completely unprepared for the attack by your neighbor Saddam Husayn at the beginning of August.

[Al-Sabah] We knew about the extent of the military buildup. But, believe me, we thought this would only be a means of exerting pressure. We simply could not imagine that the Iraqi head of state would lie to Egypt's President Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn, and others by promising them by everything sacred to him not to use violence against us. Furthermore, we did not want to inflame Saddam with a mobilization of our troops or give him any excuse for military action.

[DER SPIEGEL] But the government was obviously prepared for a quick escape.

[Al-Sabah] Ten minutes after the first shooting at the border we were awakened. The amir and the crown prince fled from Dasman Palace at the last moment because they assumed—with reason—that Saddam Husayn wanted to execute them as living symbols of independent Kuwait.

[DER SPIEGEL] You are now in command of troops that exist only on paper.

[Al-Sabah] Not at all. Part of our army escaped to Saudi Arabian territory with heavy equipment; the Air Force was even able to save all aircraft.

[DER SPIEGEL] Suppose the improbable happens: Baghdad withdraws its soldiers from Kuwait and the ruling house may return. Can you imagine peaceful coexistence with this neighbor in the future?

[Al-Sabah] Frankly, I do not believe that Saddam Husayn will be in power for a long time. The man is crazy and dangerous, not only for our region but for the entire world. Therefore, the world is determined to get rid of this danger once and for all. His intelligence services, the president's guards, and the air raid shelters will not help him.

[DER SPIEGEL] Thus, a military counterstrike. Then poison gas and biological weapons could be used....

[Al-Sabah] ...Oh, well, everything is being exaggerated so much. If things start moving, everything will be rather simple. I think that the whole affair will not even last two days. The Americans and Arab units land troops in Kha'ur Abdullah Bay, southwest of the mouth of the Shatt Al-Arab, and move toward the west. This will create a barrier that cuts off Saddam's soldiers in Kuwait from Iraq and thus stops any kind of supplies. The Iraqi Army is poorly motivated even now. Every day soldiers and officers defect to the Saudis.

[DER SPIEGEL] In the event of war, all the oil facilities and thus the source of your wealth would probably be blown up.

[Al-Sabah] We know that Saddam has had mines laid everywhere. Some things will come to grief, but not everything. But we accept this as the price for ousting Saddam.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does it not irritate you that several Arab countries and the PLO have taken the attacker's side?

[Al-Sabah] Greed for profit and political shortsightedness have peculiar results. In addition, governments are not always identical with their peoples. However, with his pro-Iraqi statement, 'Arafat has made it impossible to solve the Palestinian problem.

Finance Minister Asserts Confidence in Liberation

LD2209014190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2223 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] London, 21 Sep (SPA)—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah has said that the Kuwaiti government is fully convinced that Kuwait will be liberated very soon, God willing.

Speaking at a news conference held at the Foreign Press Assoication building in London today, he said the region will step from this crisis into peace and stability, pointing out that stability and peace in the Arab Gulf region is important not only for the inhabitants of the region, but also for all the world given the important economic and strategic resources that supply the world with most of its needs in fuel.

He said he saw the onset of a new dawn in the region that will deliver it from the regime of a dictator such as Saddam Husayn, who has been taking the region from one crisis to another. The Kuwaiti minister expressed the satisfaction of the Kuwaiti government with cooperation by the international community, the resolutions issued by the Security Council against the Iraqi aggression, and the international consensus for liberating Kuwait and normalizing the situation there.

The Kuwaiti finance minister underlined that international central and commercial banks in the world have fully cooperated with the Kuwaiti government, stressing that there are no problems or difficulties facing the Kuwaiti government in using available Kuwaiti funds to meet government commitments to citizens or the Kuwaiti resistance, or for any other commitments.

He underlined that Kuwaiti funds, when Kuwait returns, will be used not only for a better reconstruction of Kuwait, but also for development projects in developing countries.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah exposed the fallacy of Iraqi claims and the misleading demonstrations broadcast by the Iraqi television in support of Saddam Husayn in Kuwait, saying: Those who appeared in these demonstrations were Iraqis wearing the Kuwaiti national dress supplied in advance by the regime of Saddam Husayn.

He further said: Such blatant propaganda will be believed only by Iraqis who know nothing of the outside world. He stressed that Saddam Husayn has failed to find a single Kuwaiti to take part in his so-called government, adding: If Saddam really had supporters in Kuwait, why did he not form his so-called government from amongst them?

Regarding the freezing of Kuwaiti funds and assets, he said the aim of freezing Kuwaiti funds is completely different from freezing Iraqi funds because Iraqi funds were frozen as punishment of Iraq in implementation of UN resolutions, whereas Kuwaiti funds were frozen to protect them from the Iraqi occupiers. He pointed out that all the world's banks had permitted the Kuwaiti government to use its funds in full freedom.

He further said: Through this cooperation with banks, we have developed a method of insuring that these funds are only used by representatives of the legitimate government of Kuwait, and no one else, so the Iraqi regime will find no means to use these funds.

He said the Kuwaiti government currently has enough funds to meet its commitments without any need to sell bonds or other properties, adding: The Kuwaiti government is not seeking to encourage citizens to leave Kuwait, but there are conditions of intolerable coercion and repression in Kuwait. He said: When a citizen sees his son being killed, or his daughter being raped, it is difficult to ask him not to leave. We understand these harsh conditions experienced by citizens, but the decisions taken by the international community and its cohesiveness for restoring legitimacy have persuaded the citizens that this occupation will not last long.

The Kuwaiti minister expressed hope that the resolutions on economic sanctions will lead to Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and its liberation, saying the war option should remain open to liberate Kuwait in the event that sanctions fail to attain their aims.

The minister said it would be wrong for the world to believe that starving the Iraqi people will result in the fall of the regime of Saddam Husayn, because the Iraqi people have been suffering from coersion and starvation since Saddam Husayn took power.

He further said economic sanctions have been somewhat successful, and that he hopes sanctions will succeed in achieving their objectives so that the world might not have to resort to war.

He said: The Kuwaiti government does not want war, and it has never been a warmonger, but if war is the sole option and it has to be war, then such a decision will be a decision by the international community. He stressed that the Kuwaiti government does not agree to any initiative to resolve the crisis that does not accord with the full and undiminished resolutions of the United Nations, and there is no room for half solutions.

At the conclusion of the news conference, the Kuwaiti minister praised the firmness, determination, and cohesion of the Kuwaiti people in the face of the Iraqi occupier, the support of the international community for Kuwaiti legitimacy, and its deterrent decisions taken against the Iraqi regime.

Government Rejects Iraqi Dissolution of Airline

LD2109210390 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1945 GMT 21 Sep 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message" program]

[Text] A responsible source at the Council of Ministers [of Kuwait] has stated the following: The Council of Ministers wishes to affirm to all governments, international aviation establishments, airlines, and air transport companies, and to all relevant departments in all countries that the Kuwaiti Airlines Establishment is a Kuwaiti Airlines Establishment is a Kuwaiti public organization set up by law no. 21 for the year 1965 and that it continues operation in accordance with this law and within the framework of the legitimate Government of Kuwait.

Hence all quarters should deal with it on the basis of it being a public establishment owned by the Government of Kuwait in all matters—its rights and commitments binding on it, be they in the past or in the future actions. It enjoys the jurisdiction to do all that.

The Council wishes to affirm that the recent declaration by the Iraqi occupation authorities, as a consequence of their treacherous aggression against the State of Kuwait, that the Kuwait Airlines Establishment has been dissolved, is an illegitimate measure, is absolutely null and void, and violates international law. Consequently, it has no legal bearing whatsoever. This declaration also constitutes a defiance of the will of the international community which unanimously recognizes the legitimate Government of the State of Kuwait and the illegitimacy of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Consequently, the Iraqi authorities have no power to issue any resolutions affecting the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait or of its establishments including the Kuwait Airlines Establishment.

This was affirmed by the amir's edict of 3 August, 1990. Article 5 of this edict provides that any legislation, decree, or measure issued by any quarter or authority which claims that it has sovereignty over the land of Kuwait and over any matter which affects its independence and sovereignty is null and void. Only decisions made by the legitimate Government of Kuwait and in accordance with its constitutional system shall be valid.

Also, any act, measure, or contract imposed by material and moral coercion and without the full agreement of any physical or corporate Kuwaiti persons shall be absolutely null and void and cannot be implemented. This may be proved by any means necessary.

The Council of Ministers warns all parties concerned against dealing with the Iraqi authorities or their organizations in any matter affecting the Kuwaiti Airlines Establishment, and shall hold all those why carry out such dealings in contravention of the above legally responsible including the seeking of compensation from them.

Opposition Figure Denies Rejection of Al-Sabah

NC2109211890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2008 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Ahmad Yusuf al-Nafisi, one of the leaders of the Kuwaiti nationalist movement which is part of the Kuwaiti opposition, has denied a report by the Jordanian paper AL-RA'Y that Kuwiti opposition forces have reached what the paper described as a common stand rejecting the restoration of the al-Sabah family's rule in Kuwait.

In a statement received by MENA tonight, al-Nafisi said that the the news is utterly unfounded and untrue and that it merely aims at distorting and falsifying the position taken by the Kuwaiti nationalist, democratic, and pan-Arab forces since the Iraqi occupation forces desecrated the land of Kuwait on 2 August.

Al-Nafisi said that all Kuwaitis, regardless of their affiliations, are unanimous in their support for a number of major objectives. These objectives, he noted, are: The full and prompt liberation of our country, the withdrawal of every Iraqi soldier of Kuwait, the return of the hundreds of thousands of Kuwaitis who have been displaced through terror and intimidation, and the return of constitutional legitimacy to the country so as to enable the Kuwaitis to shape their country's future away from external intervention or pressure.

Unified Resistance Issues First Communique

PM2109130890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Sep 90 pp 1-4

[Unattributed report: "Unified Kuwaiti Resistance Movement Named 'Sabah' Announced"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Kuwaiti Resistance Movement, "Sabah," has pledged to the Kuwaiti people and to the Arab and world public to continue its jihad until Kuwait is free and the occupation is eliminated.

In its first statement, a copy of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT obtained yesterday, Sabah announced the establishment of the Kuwaiti Resistance Movement, which will be regarded as the organizational and jihad framework for all resistance operations against the brutal Iraqi aggression. This is "in accordance with the constituent meeting held at one of its secret centers in Kuwait City on Wednesday 22 Safar 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 12 September 1990, which was attended by a large number of Kuwaiti students, intellectuals, and soldiers.

Statement No. 1 issued by the Kuwaiti Resistance Movement, "Sabah," announced that an operation was carried out by three members of the resistance on the eve of the constituent meeting. The operation, the statement said, resulted in the destruction of an Iraqi surveillance center, the death of two Iraqi soldiers, and the wounding of four others.

Sabah's statement said that groups of young Kuwaiti mujahidin, who acted spontaneously to confront the Iraqi occupation and resist the aggression, called for a meeting to organize and close their ranks with a view to strengthening the resistance base and expanding its jihad operations in order to liberate every inch of Kuwait's territory.

Sabah's first statement also said: After discussing conditions and the details of the lightning and various other operations carried out—bravely and on individual initiative—by free fighters against the Iraqi occupation elements and centers, the following has been agreed:

—To unify the forces of the heroic Kuwaiti mujahidin and fighters under a single organizational framework, and to work to expand the resistance base so as to include the largest possible number of Kuwait's sons from all groups of Kuwaiti society.

—To establish the Kuwaiti Resistance Movement, "Sabah," and to regard it as the organizational and jihad framework for all resistance operations in order to confront the brutal Iraqi aggression.

—To emphasize the importance and priority of the Kuwaiti sons' role in confronting the brutal occupation in preparation for liberating every inch of Kuwait's beloved territory.

—To call on every Kuwaiti at home and abroad to participate in resistance activities until the homeland is liberated.

—To maintain the movement's secrecy so that it can be a genuine resistance free from rivalry and able to work as an underground organization until the dawn breaks and Kuwait's sun rises once again.

—To organize voluntary Kuwaiti, Arab, and international recruitment to bolster the Kuwaiti Resistance Movement, "Sabah," which is committed to independent decision-making based on its belief in the need for the jihad until the last Iraqi occupation troops leave Kuwait.

Resistance Reportedly Kills 15 Iraqi Troops

PM2109104490 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 17 Sep 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "15 Iraqis Killed In Retaliatory Operation by Resistance; Occupation Command Center In 'Bubiyan' Blown Up"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpts] Kuwaiti-Saudi border, AL-ANBA', news agencies—The heroes of the Kuwaiti national resistance carried out a retaliatory operation against the Iraqi occupation forces after the Iraqi soldiers had stormed several Kuwaiti offices and killed their owners and the members of the public who were there. Over the past few days the Kuwaiti resistance heroes have killed 15 Iraqi soldiers and wounded two others in one operation. [passage omitted]

A number of evacuees have said that, despite their control of Kuwait, Saddam's forces failed to enter most Kuwaiti homes until recently. They said that the Iraqi occupation's next step would be to settle Iraqi citizens in empty Kuwaiti homes which the Iraqi soldiers have stripped of their contents. This is part of a scheme designed to erase the Kuwaiti identity. A number of people have said that the reason for opening the border is to get rid of the Kuwaitis in order to weaken the national resistance, in which the sons of Kuwait are heroically participating. Others believe that the reason is the difficulty that the Iraqi occupation is experiencing in imposing its control over Kuwait as a result of civil disobedience.

One returnee said that the Kuwaiti national resistance blew up an Iraqi occupation command center in the "Bubiyan Club" in al-Bid' at 1500 hours the day before yesterday. [passage omitted]

Claims Nine Iraqis Killed

LD2209152890 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Kuwaiti resistance today released a statement in which it said that a group of resistance men set a trap for a vehicle belonging to the Iraqi intelligence in one of the streets in Kuwait city which resulted in the death of nine elements ['anasir] of Iraqi intelligence. The movement's statement, reported by Kuwait radio, said Kuwait is still inhabited by thousands of residents who are defying the occupation by their steadfastness and their holding on to their land and homes, and their refusal to submit to the tyrannical orders and statements of the invaders despite the torture and terror perpetrated by the Iraqi soldiers.

The Kuwaiti resistance statement lauded the steadfastness of the Kuwaitis and urged them to unite and cooperate to defend Kuwait's flag.

Iraqi Soldiers Said To Execute Kuwaiti Doctors

PM2409101490 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Sep 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Republic Guards Killed 12 Doctors And Assistant Doctors In Hospital Reception Hall"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Excerpt] London, AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI—The invading Iraqi forces have over the past three days committed a series of barbaric massacres. As a result, 17 people have been martyred. They were executed openly by specialized "firing squads" comprising Iraqi soldiers and officers.

AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI has learned from sources inside Kuwait and from eyewitnesses who left Kuwait the day before yesterday that among the victims were 12 doctors and assistant doctors who worked in one of Kuwait City's hospitals. As for the other martyrs, they were executed in their offices or in front of their homes.

Eyewitnesses say that a group of Iraqi officers and soldiers brought a wounded Iraqi officer and soldier to the hospital. They gathered the doctors, their assistants, and the nurses under the threat of arms and said: "Save their lives, or else..." At least four doctors, with some assistants, operated on the Iraqi officer and soldier, but they died a few hours later.

The eyewitnesses added: A group of Iraqi soldiers and officers contacted the Iraqi military command and informed it of the death of the officer and the soldier. Half an hour later a military truck carrying some 18 Republican Guard soldiers with six intelligence men in civilian clothes parked opposite the hospital door. That group entered the hospital and gathered all those in white coats into the reception hall. Then they requested that doctors and their assistants be separated from the group. After that was done, an officer—a colonel—moved toward the doctors brandishing his revolver at then. Then he unleashed a hail of insults, accusing the doctor of killing the Iraqi officer and soldier and of collaborating with the resistance. Then, in front of the patients and the other staff in the hospital, he started to fire at the doctors and their assistants. Then a group of six to 18 persons opened fire on them with their machine guns and, as a result, their bodies were riddled with bullets and the floor and walls of the reception hall were covered in blood.

AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI's information from Kuwait says that five prominent Kuwaiti figures were executed in a similar way.

This information says that the Iraqi invading forces have over the past three days stormed offices where people gather, accompanied by an Iraqi television team. Then they tell the owner of the office and those who are there to hang a huge portrait of Saddam Husayn above their heads. Then they sit under it facing the television cameras as though they support and are happy with the invasion and the Iraqi leadership. [passage omitted]

Qatar

French Defense Minister, Delegation Arrive

JN2309155090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2025 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Doha, 22 Sep (WAKH)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement arrived in Doha from Paris this evening leading a delegation on a two-day visit to Qatar.

The French minister's visit is part of a tour of the region that will also take him to the United Arab Emirates.

Confers With Officials, Departs

JN2309155590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 23 Sep (WAKH)—French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement left Doha today following a two-day visit to Qatar within the framework of a tour of a number of the region's states, during which he held talks with senior Qatari officials on relations between the two countries and developments in the current crisis in the Gulf region. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Address Renews Call for Iraqi Withdrawal

LD2309181190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 23 Sep (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has sent an address to the citizens on the occasion of the Kingdom's national day, delivered by Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir. Here follows the text of the address:

Thanks be to God, who had sent forth with his servant the book, a guidance, a light, and a blessing for mankind. Prayers and the peace of God be upon the last of the prophets and missionaries, our master Muhammad, and upon his kinfolk and all companions.

Brother citizens, peace and blessings of God be upon you. It pleases me to remember the history of the long jihad fought by our fathers and ancestors to help the religion of Islam and to cause the word of God to be heard. This is on the occasion when we are experiencing an anniversary that is dear to all citizens, men and women, in this graceful country: the anniversary of the historic day when the great founder 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'abd-al-Rahman Al Sa'ud, may God bless his soul, announced the birth of the nascent Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, after unifying its parts. [passage omitted]

We welcome the anniversary of our national day this year, while our hearts bleed in pained torment because of what has befallen a fraternal state, a state dear to us, the state of Kuwait, in the form of extensive wrongdoing and sinful aggression, following the Iraqi invasion that dispersed its people, shed the blood of its sons, violated its sanctities, and wasted and plundered its resources in the most hideous scene known to ancient and modern history.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is today living the tragedy of the brothers, the sons of the state of Kuwait. It has declared its position rejecting this vicious aggression and all subsequent matters resulting from it, which have been denounced and rejected by the Islamic and Arab world and condemned by the international community by means of severe resolutions made public. The Kingdom today stands with the entire world to repel this aggression and to reject the principle of one state's taking over another by force, and insists on an Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwaiti territories [plural indicates the two islands off Kuwait] without any restrictions or conditions, on the return of Kuwait's legitimate government and people to it, and on the withdrawal of the Iraqi troop buildup from the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a state that calls for peace by all means, but as we have said repeatedly, if it must face up to the trial of unjust aggression or vicious, greedy ambition, then it stands up in steadfastness to defend its lands and protect the values of its life with all the power available to it, inspired by its faith in God with great, relentless, and unyielding determination.

While we reiterate our deep thanks and appreciation for our brothers, the leaders and peoples of the Arab and Islamic states, and the friendly states that have come forward to support our Armed Forces and strengthen our defense capabilities, we, in the first place, rely on almighty God who has protected this country and its population from anyone who wished to harm them. We also rely on the brave and loyal sons of this country, the men of our Armed Forces with all their branches and sectors; land, naval, air forces, and air defense forces; and we also rely on the brothers and the friends who have vied with one another in rushing forward to maintain peace in the land that loves peace. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Holds News Conference 22 Sep

LD2309075990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0310 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, reiterated that Saudi Arabia welcomes any initiative which would lead to the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and restore legitimacy to Kuwait, provided that that initiative would stem from the resolutions of the Cairo summit, the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] and the UN Security Council.

In this context, his highness stressed that Saudi Arabia rejects any initiative that does not include a commitment to an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the Kuwaiti legitimacy under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, and his government.

This was said in reply to a question addressed to his royal highness during a press conference he held today after his inspection visit of King Faysal air base in the northwestern zone.

In reply to a question, his royal highness expressed his regrets and anguish over the stances adopted by some Arab countries toward the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In reply to a question about press reports on a division in the Iraqi leadership, and on some Iraqi leaders taking asylum in an Arab Gulf country, his royal highness said: I do not know about this.

His royal highness was also asked whether the time is right for the Iraqi people and Army to say their word about the dark tunnel through which Saddam Husayn is leading them. He said that it depends on the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi people. In reply to a question about whether the Iraqi president had started to hint toward negotiations with some Arab leaders, including Saudi Arabia, he said: I have not heard about this.

In reply to a question about the application of the air blockade on Iraq, his royal highness pointed out that this resolution was adopted by the permanent members of the UN Security Council, and that these members are the ones to implement that blockade. In reply to a question about whether Saudi Arabia intends to buy some weapons from the Soviet Union following the resumption of the Saudi-Soviet relations he said: The purchase of weapons does not depend on diplomatic relations, as we bought weapons from the PRC years before the resumption of relations. His royal highness added: God be praised—there are no restrictions on your armed forces, as your wise leadership buys weapons from anywhere provided that these weapons are suitable to the requirements of the armed forces.

His royal highness said that according to the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and his government, conscription centers and enlistment centers have been opened. He pointed out that conscription is subject to military regulations, and that centres exist and have been expanded. Large numbers of youths, some with primary education certificates and others with university degrees, have joined. His royal highness pointed out that these centers will continue for as long as there is a need for them.

In reply to a question about whether Saudi Arabia has gone beyond the stage of preparations for defending its territories and Islamic sanctities, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan-Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz stressed that the Saudi Armed Forces—with God's help—are able to defend the Kingdom and its Islamic sanctities.

Foreign Ministry Issues Communique on Expulsions

LD2209221190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2105 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Sep (SPA)—The Foreign Ministry issued the following communique today, Saturday:

The media have reported the expulsion of a number of diplomats from the embassies of the Iraqi Republic, the Yemeni Republic, and the Jordanian Hashemite Kingdom from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In order to clarify the truth and the reality, we would like to point out that competent Saudi authorities noticed that those diplomats carried out activities which undermine the security of the Kingdom and its safety, and which are incompatible with the code of conduct and rules of diplomatic service.

At the time, these authorities drew the attention of these diplomatic missions to the manifest and flagrant infractions committed by some of their staff, hoping they [the diplomatic staff] would comply with what is dictated by the rules of diplomatic service. However, and very regrettably, they [the authorities] noticed the continuation of this activity, which forced them to ask the governments of these states to withdraw those diplomats and limit the number of staff members at those missions.

Statement Reviews Withdrawal of Yemeni Privileges

LD2109204790 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Commenting on the statement issued by the Yemeni cabinet at its extraordinary session held yesterday, Thursday, 20 September 1990, in which it commented on the statement of the Interior Ministry of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia issued last Wednesday, 19 September 1990, stipulating the cancellation of the privileges which had been given to some Arab communities living in the Kingdom, an official source at the Interior Ministry told SPA today:

It seems that the Yemeni Government went too far in its interpretation of the Interior Ministry's position—the Yemeni Government statement emphasized Yemen's right to take the steps to preserve the rights of Yemeni citizens and their possessions. The source added: The Interior Ministry statement was clear in its substance and candid in its aims and had no need for any explanation or interpretation which is beyond the framework of its contents. Despite this, and in order to avoid any ambiguity or skeptical remarks, the Interior Ministry would like to clarify the following points:

First: The Government of Saudi Arabia, led by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, granted the sons of the Yemeni community special privileges, which were not granted to any of the citizens of other Arab countries, to express appreciation for the brotherly bonds between the two countries and the two peoples and to stress the kingdom's concern for the deepening and consecration of bonds of amity and goodneighborliness between them. These privileges could have continued had the Yemeni Government appreciated this initiative by the kingdom and kept in mind the reasons behind it, which are related to bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Yemeni mass media campaign, which has been going on for some weeks, is the most obvious proof of the rightness of what we have pointed out in this regard.

Second: The cancellation of those privileges does not at all imply any harm to the rights and possessions of Yemeni citizens nor to the material gains they made during the period they were entitled to the benefits of those privileges.

It is not in the moral practice of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to grant an Arab citizen a definite privilege and then come back and take possession of the benefit of that privilege once it is withdrawn. The Kingdom respects freedom, as stipulated by Islam, more than freedom as stipulated by Law. The Kingdom, as is well known, is liberal in dealing with people. It preserves individuals' rights, their financial belongings, and material propety. It does not interfere in their private affairs as long as they abide by its internal laws and security rules, and everybody is free to dispose of his money and property.

Third: The Interior Ministry statement explained all the details related to the new situation of the sons of the Yemeni community following the withdrawal of the aforementioned privileges. It also determined the appropriate periods to resolve their situation.

Thus, the sons of the Yemeni community, thanks to their new situation, will be equal to all the residents in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as far as their rights and duties are concerned.

The source concluded the statement saying: We hope that our clarification will remove the skepticism of the Yemeni Government, and reassure, by way of consequence, the Yemeni brothers residing among us about their rights and possessions acquired during the period of privilege granted to them until the date of its withdrawal announced in the Interior Ministry statement.

We also stress that all the sons of the Yemeni community living in the Kingdom will continue to receive, as usual, the care given by the state to all, as long as they abide by its prevailing laws.

Oil Minister on Overdue Jordanian Account

LD2209173790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1642 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah, 22 Sep (SPA)—His excellency the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Hisham Muhyi-al-Din Nazir, said in a statement to SPA today that exporting crude oil is the sole responsibility of the petroleum exporting companies in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and that cutting off crude oil exports to Jordan is a measure taken by the Saudi Arab Oil Company because of Jordan's failure to meet overdue payments.

He added that Jordan has not paid overdue amounts that were postponed for two years and then divided over three years, the first part of which, totalling $40 million, was due last July but still has not been paid.

His excellency said that Jordan also did not pay on time the petroleum it received last July at a cost of $6 million. His Excellency further said that the news disseminated by news agencies citing the Jordanian minister of energy and mineral resources as saying that the custodian of the two holy mosques had exempted Jordan from the overdue payments is totally untrue.

Minister Nazir pointed out that the oil companies in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are commercial companies dealing on a commercial basis and the Government of Saudi Arabia does not interfere in their activities, their sales methods, or commitments to secure the prices of their products. These companies deal with all buyers on an equal footing in a unified manner and they cannot treat Jordan differently from other buyers. The point at issue is payments due to the company and not stopping the pumping of oil for other reasons.

His excellency concluded his statement by saying that the Saudi oil companies did not promise Jordan to supply it with half of its needs in petroleum. They take orders from buyers and meet them according to the oil supplies available to them. He stressed that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not concerned with this matter and when Jordan pays off the installments due to the Saudi oil companies, then pumping oil for Jordan will duly resume.

Deputy Prime Minister Views Iraqi Invasion

LD2209030690 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, last night gave a banquet at the palace of his highness in the town of Tabuk.

The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Fahd Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the governor of Tabuk region; their highnesses the princes; and his eminence the president of the courts of Tabuk area, Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim Sudays. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz afterward made the following speech [announcer-read]:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Brother inhabitants of the northwestern area, urban and rural districts, civilians and military. I greet you the greetings of Islam. Peace and the blessing of God be upon you. On this blessed night during which I meet with these splendid Muslim and believing men and notables who seek peace and reject injustice, I do not want to be a preacher, but I want to speak to you and to speak on your behalf.

All of us know what all the Gulf states—people and leaderships, especially fraternal Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—as an act of cooperation and friendship along with their brothers in the Gulf states and the people of the Gulf have given in the form of political, moral, financial, and military support—from the people and the army—to during their war with Iran. [sentence as heard]

The truth which I would now like to clarify is this: We made every effort because a Muslim is not allowed to kill a fellow Muslim because almighty God has forbidden a Muslim from spilling another Muslim's blood, or harming his possessions and honor. The Kingdom followed this command. As the holy koran says: If two parties among the believers fall into a quarrel, make ye peace between them, but if one of them transgresses beyond bounds against the other, then fight ye all against the one that transgresses until it complies with the command of God. We gave advice to our brothers in Iran not to interfere in the affairs of Iraq, but they did not listen to us. We also advised Iraq not to fight Muslim Iran and that they should go to the international laws and the United Nations. We failed in this too.

We put ourselves before two things: Either abandon Islam, our Arabism, and fraternal Iraq and let it down, or adopt the stand of the true and Muslim Arab who believes in good neighborliness and its defense.

We helped Iraq with all we possessed for eight years. The people of Iraq know this. The Arab, Islamic nations and the world know this. The war ended without the victory of one over the other. But, we lost one million or more Muslims in Iraq and Iran.

After this the Baghdad summit took place. All of you know it was when Israel began to say that Iraq possesses chemical weapons and that Iraq is this or that powerful. We adopted a united stand to a man alongside Iraq. We signed the pan-Arab security charter—regrettably, we were acting in good faith and without malice. But he [Saddam] was working inside his leadership with treachery and ingratitude.

He then invaded fraternal Kuwait and began a farce by invading Kuwait. At first he said a coup took place in Kuwait and that Iraqi forces went there in order to assist the coup. This is rejected by shariah [Islamic law] and by convention, as it is interference in the domestic affairs of a state. Nevertheless, it was a legal recognition that Kuwait has an independent and sovereign state. Afterward, a provisional free government was set up and we know what government it was and who put it here. I do not wish to talk about them or mention some people specifically because I do not wish to lower myself to their level or to look like them or to resemble them in any way. It emerged that there was a Kuwait government. This government issued a decree overthrowing the regime in power, turning it from a state to a republic of Kuwait. Twenty-four hours later, this government asked to negotiate with Iraq to abolish the borders and about some of the Iraqi ambitions concerning our brothers in Kuwait.

There was an independent government and an independent and sovereign state. After this two committees consisting of Iraq and Kuwait were formed. Only a few hours later, the government announced its union with Iraq. This could be accomplished only by an independent and sovereign state. Twenty-four hours later, Iraq issued—I must not say Iraq, because Iraq is innocent of the action of an ignorant, absurd, stupid, and irresponsible leadership.

The Iraqi ruler issued an order saying Kuwait does not have the status of a state, it has no place on the map of the Arab world, and that it is a former part of Iraq. A strange contradiction. What is more strange is that mouthpieces in some parts of our Arab world believe these words when they are fully aware that those words are complete lies. But regrettably, deeprooted hatred is a very difficult thing to control. Whenever it has an opportunity it quickly rises to the surface.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—a Muslim and believing country—does not hesitate in any way to defend good neighborliness and discharge its obligations or stand united to a man alongside its brothers in the Gulf, and indeed alongside the entire Arab nation, and I specifically refer to fraternal Palestine and the recovery of our holy Jerusalem, the first Qiblah, and will not hesitate to defend, as was the case in the past, every usurped Arab right.

All of you know that Saudi armed forces remained for 11 years in Jordan taking part in the defense against usurper Israel. And these military men in front of me, some of them remained in Jordan for 11 years. The Saudi armed forces remained in dear and fraternal Syria for four years in defense of the Islamic and Arab nation.

Therefore, it is not a new thing that we stand united to a man alongside our brothers in Kuwait and to see that they return to their country with God's help and power. And it will be God's will and power and not our will or power that will help them. It is because God's will towers over everything and we are only one of its instruments.

This is a brief account of what Iraq's leadership and not its army has done because its army acted against its own will. As for the fraternal people of Iraq, they will not accept this upon themselves or upon their deeprooted Islamic history.

Colleagues and brothers, the custodian of the two holy mosques has pursued peace and always pursues peace and he seeks peace. It is because he is a Muslim, a believer, and an Arab. His Islam prevents him from spilling blood. His faith orders him to protect honor and to repel evil with that which is best as long as a reasonable argument is possible or can have an effect. If calamities ever happen, then the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is capable of confronting and destroying them and of standing united to a man in one field, one resolve so that we can discharge our religious and Arab duty.

Therefore, and because of all this, I greet you the greetings of Islam and say in this speech of mine: If you will aid the cause of God, He will aid you. I urge you to fear God almighty, in public and in secret. Let our last prayer be: Praise be to God the lord of all the universe. The blessing and peace and the mercy of God be upon you.

Afterward, all had dinner with His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. The banquet was attended by the shaykhs, the notables of the area of Tabuk, the governors of towns and villages of the governorate of Tabuk, commanders and officers of the armed forces in the northwestern region, a number of officials, and groups of citizens.

Khafji Border Officials Arrest 150 Iraqi 'Agents'

NC2309093990 Paris AFP in English 0918 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, Sept 23 (AFP)—Saudi security officials at the border post of Khafji with occupied Kuwait have arrested 150 people who confessed to being Iraqi agents, Al-Ayyam newspaper reported here Sunday.

"These agents wanted to infiltrate Saudi Arabia and other Arab Gulf states," the paper said, quoting reliable Kuwaiti sources. Al-Ayyam said members of Kuwaiti intelligence were posted in Khafji alongside Saudi officials and had helped identify the Iraqi spies crossing the border since it was opened for fleeing Kuwaitis on September 15.

United Arab Emirates

French Senate Delegation Arrives for Visit

JN2209173090 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 22 (GNA)—A delegation from the French Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces Committee arrived here today for a visit to the UAE (United Arab Emirates)

It was received by first deputy speaker of the UAE Federal National Council, 'Abdallah al-Muhayribi, a number of the Council's members and French ambassador, Hubert Colin De Verdiere.

Defense Minister Receives Italian Navy Commander

JN2209154990 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Dubai, Sept 22 (GNA) UAE [United Arab Emirates] Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum today received commander of the Italian Navy in the Gulf, Captain Mario Buracchia.

The meeting was attended by Italian Ambassador, Giovanni Ferrero.

Later Shaykh Muhammad received the British Consul General in Dubai, Robert Hendry.

Yemen

Salih Speaks on Crisis Stance, Foreign Presence

JN2309175690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary-general of the General People's Congress, has stressed the need for all political forces and organizations to compete in building the new Yemen.

In a speech he delivered today at the opening ceremony of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee's 22d ordinary session in the capital, Sanaa, he said: We hope there will be full cooperation between the [Yemeni Socialist] Party and the [General People's] Congress and all political forces in the Yemeni arena. We also hope that political action in the national arena will not be monopolized by the Party and Congress. On the contrary, we are partners with all political forces and we urge them to join forces, cooperate, build the new Yemen, avoid all the sensitivities and complexes of the past, and [word indistinct] all wrong surmises and calculations. In light of political pluralism, we welcome opinion and counteropinion and all sincere ideas that aim to build the new Yemen.

The president pointed out that our country is going through a delicate phase and that hostile forces are trying to infiltrate ranks. He said: We must be cautious against all biased attempts and rumors.

The brother president touched on the Yemeni view of the Gulf crisis and explained that, from the very beginning, Yemen has declared its clear policy on the crisis, which is based on the fact that it does not approve of the invasion and annexation of Kuwait; rejects the foreign presence in the region, with the attendant threats against the Arab land and Arab sovereignty, wealth, and national security; and is making efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully within the Arab context.

The brother president explained that our country is one of those most affected by this crisis and its economic losses may be greater than those of Iraq itself. He said: However, we are not prepared to change our principled position or bargain over it. Positions are not for sale, and they are not given up to whoever pays the most. Those who do not understand Yemen's position now for some reason or another will understand in the end that it was the right position, which has put the nation's interest above any other consideration.

He stressed that our country will continue to make efforts to cooperate with all Arab brothers, and to move in the international arena together with the Soviet Union, the United States, and the UN Security Council's permanent members to contain the Gulf crisis. If it explodes militarily, no one will be safe from its destructive consequences, even those who escalate things and hurry a military strike against Iraq, because they will be the first to lose.

He said our country has no aggressive intentions against anyone, and all we want is for others to respect our sovereignty and political decision and not intervene in our internal affairs. He explained that all the hostile campaigns that Yemen is facing are only pretexts and expressions of rancor toward Yemen. He said that even if Yemen were to retreat from its position and declare its support for the foreign presence in the [Arabian] Peninsula and Gulf, they would not forgive Yemen and their position would not change.

Foreign Ministry Source Condemns Saudi Measures

JN2309205490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2010 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has expressed strong denunciation of the clarification by official sources in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that the arbitrary measures applied by the Saudi Government against diplomats and administrative officials at the Yemeni Embassy in Riyadh were taken to protect the Kingdom's safety and security.

The source said that the Yemeni Government is very interested in making clear to the brothers and friends all over the world that these allegations are completely unfounded, and that they have been raised by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to justify several measures that have no objective other than serving the enemies of the two countries and making relations tense between two neighboring countries, each of which has rights and duties. To prove this, the Saudi Government has ordered a reduction in the number of officials at the [Yemeni] Consulate in Jeddah, from more than 50 diplomats and administrative officials, to only four staffers, just as is the case at the embassy in Riyadh. It is no secret to anyone that hundreds of thousands of Yemenis working in the Kingdom are in need of their government's care.

RCC Statement Threatens Saudi Oil Fields, Israel

JN2309115790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Sep 90

["Text" of a statement issued by a joint meeting of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; date and place not given]

[Text] Brothers, leader President Saddam Husayn has presided over a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The joint meeting issued a statement. The following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The United States has gone too far with large-scale criminal actions against Iraq and the Arab nation, with its hateful aggressiveness, especially with its occupation of the land of the Arab and Muslim holy places in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], and the embargo it has imposed on the unyielding people of Iraq. The United States, thus, has gone far below the the minimum level of human standards toward which even those who believe in the law of the jungle could not stoop.

It has done all of this to satisfy its arrogance, which made it yield under pressures created by its feeling of having a unilateral hold on the world.

America should not indulge further and further. It must remove from its mind any thoughts of pushing matters towards a military confrontation. It must quickly realize the dangers of the so-called lightning strike. It should also abandon all of this and remedy it as soon as possible, by returning to the innermost parts of itself, so as to search for the remnants of wisdom to aid it, so that it turns away from this dangerous course as soon as possible. Primarily, it should withdraw from the holy lands of the Arabs and Muslims. Contrary to that, the United States should clearly realize that it is pushing the entire region, and not only Iraq—in fact, even the whole world, foremost of which its sons whom Bush brought to the region—to the brink of an unfathomable abyss, from which the region could not get out to see the daylight for decades. The oil, its areas, and Israel will be transformed into something different from what they are now. Thus will be the flood. We will never allow anybody, whoever he may be, to stifle the people of Iraq with the flood without having himself stifled. If we feel that the Iraqi people are being stifled, that there are some who will deal a sanguinary blow to it, we will stifle all those who are the cause of this. The oil areas in Saudi Arabia and in other parts of the states of the region and all the oil installations will be rendered incapable of responding to the needs of those who came to us as occupiers in order to usurp our sovereignty, dignity, and wealth.

Israel will be included in all that affects the owners of the homeland in which evil and occupiers have lingered, and in which nothing has maintained its purity except for the holy places and the generous people who reject this injustice and aggression.

Those who wish the flood to overtake the Iraqi people and nation, and are planning for this, should remember well that the waves of the flood will overwhelm them before they overwhelm the Iraqi people. America, those who instigated it or collaborated with it, should realize this well so as to recalculate things and rethink in the correct and precise manner upon which they should build. The reckless, odious, and foolish behavior which has occurred so far should be enough for them. If the losers want to defuse the dangerous possibilities, the way we and all the generous people of the nation want, they should reembrace the idea that peace should prevail in the entire region, and legitimate rights should be restored to all their legitimate owners, foremost of which usurped Palestine. All dangerous weapons should be removed from the whole region, and those concerned should warn the foreigners against adopting the big stick policy in the region, replacing it by a policy of understanding which is based on justice and fairness.

Everybody should remember that there is no way that injustice and justice can coexist in the region, nor can poverty and barbaric exploitation coexist with wealth, nor aggressiveness with peace, backwardness with progress, despair with hope. Everybody should also realize that what we have warned against might happen when the sparks come out of the barrels of opposing guns, and from the friction of the fleets of aggression with our means and forces.

The sparks might fly by mistake or deliberately and afterward cause a huge conflagration. When this happens, a flood will ensue. To prevent the feared eventuality from taking place, those concerned should pull back their armies as well as naval and air fleets as soon as possible. This should, nay, must be the first step that would prepare for the creation of climates of understanding. Without this, there will be no understanding under the spearheads of threats. Dire consequences will befall those who love to create wars, problems, and crises. They will also befall evildoers and back stabbers.

As for the Arabs who are launching good offices, they are urged not to replace the solution that we offered on 12 August with a partial solution, such as turning the conflict from one concerning major issues into one regarding minor issues benefiting the tactics of the enemies and their supporters.

The major issue concerns the struggle of the Arabs and Muslims in their righteous jihad against falsehood. The prime objective is the liberation of Palestine from the usurpation of the Zionist usurpers. Iraq's adherence to this position through an unequivocally stated policy has caused evil arrows to be directed against it, and has caused the poisonous wasps to leave their holes to sting its sides and cause them to bleed in a most dangerous conspiracy that seeks to inflict political and economic harm on Iraq, to prepare for the military weakening of Iraq, and also for the weakening of its nationalist, pan-Arab, and humanitarian role.

The conspiracy and those behind it have been exposed. At the forefront of those charged with staging the conspiracy were the former rulers of Kuwait who used Kuwait, which was separated from Iraq, as a base for a counterconspiracy. They have massed its stolen resources to serve everything that would bring evil and disgrace to the national and Islamic struggle. The blow dealt to that evil ruling clique, the agent of the foreigner, was an indispensable defensive move to maintain Iraq's features and resources and improve them in order to achieve the well-known noble objectives. Thus, usurped Kuwait was restored to its people to be part of its original nation by an eternal decision from which there can be no retreat under any circumstances or conditions.

And amid this condition, and amid the hostile reactions toward it, the Arabs and Muslims have mobilized their resources and realized the role which they must shoulder after they have been unable to play it for many years. The battle has taken a new form, in which the initiative against injustice, tyranny, and the occupation of the lands of Muslims and Arabs have been taken up by the masses and the honorable nationalist leaders, both on the level of those who are in power and those who are in the nationalist political movements and organizations. All nationalist leaders, whom we have mentioned, have assumed a new and better status with God and the masses of their people and nation, each according to his own endeavor.

Therefore, those who have to prove that they are serious about their endeavor to change their evil schemes against the nation and the evil and malicious plans they adopt are the ones who stand in the hostile trench, to convince the nationalists and the masses of the people of the possibility of dealing with them to a degree that does not make them lose the opportunity to rise up to regain all usurped and lost rights, whether on the level of social, economical, and political life; or on the level of the usurpation of the land and sanctities in Palestine and Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Honorable nationalists do not need a certificate of good conduct except from almighty God and the faithful, patient, and struggler masses. Therefore, honorable nationalists, be they rulers or leaders of nationalist movements, must be warned lest they be transformed into tools of pressure in search of the so-called compromises, or be dragged with the imperialist political and information efforts—led by the U.S. Administration and its ally, Thatcher—and which are based on threats and blackmail.

Iraq is fine. It is capable of engaging in any fight or long struggle, and winning God's great honor. "Fighting is prescribed for you, and yet ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But God knoweth and ye know not." [Koranic verse].

The masses of the faithful are also fine. Their ranks are growing with faithful people who are seeking victory or martyrdom in defense of what God has shown as their right against the infidels who have sown corruption on earth and have now come to sow corruption in the holy land of Najd and Hejaz.

If a certain degree of unity is to be reached on the level of the Arab League and the relations among Arab states, those who have mutilated this unity through conspiracy and biased, hasty actions must stay away from this course and enter the course which pleases God and the people. It is then, and without any preconditions, that all opportunities sought by the righteous ones will be given in order to reach solutions that place the Arabs in a better position.

At any rate, everyone must know that the arms of the foreigner and the continued presence of the invader occupiers in Najd and Hejaz and in other Arab countries, waiting for evil moments and making threats, do not provide the minimum prospects for understanding and calm thinking on solutions serving the Arab nation and stability in the region. In fact, there can be no room for a solution or understanding under the shadow of arms and the threats and warnings of those who have fleets and armies.

Any minor or major efforts by the Arabs should, nay, must not give the foreigner a cover or an excuse for his occupation, pending their attainment of solutions that would cause him to leave the region. Those who brought in the foreigner should not use excuses and fall under the delusion which makes them believe that the slogan of driving the foreigner out of the Arab nation's land and the holy lands should lead to national concessions that might undermine political endeavors or honorable objectives. The price for the realization of the honorable slogans should not be the concession of a right, true, or noble position. This is the position of Iraq. And this is its call for all of its Arab brothers and also for all the patient and faithful people who are standing on a line of confrontation on a side with defined features against the tyrants and infidelity—who are standing on the line which makes their stature tower over the placards of disgrace and shame.

The Arab solution which we mean and have meant from the outset is the solution that would be discussed under propitious circumstances. For the circumstances to be propitious, the policy of threats should be replaced by announcing a desire for understanding. There is no room for us to believe any desire in this regard on the part of those concerned, unless they declare the actual withdrawal of foreign troops from the region. Once this happens, the Arabs will have the chance and the ability to unite on a position that will then be agreed on, and divisions will leave the new scene of inter-Arab ties. Understanding rather than infighting will then prevail. God is great.

[Signed] The Joint Meeting of the RCC, the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party

AFP Reporter Says Turkish Border Closes

JN2109151190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Iraq closed its borders today with Turkey. The reasons are not yet clear. This was reported a short while ago by the AFP correspondent there [not further specified].

Government Expels Military Attaches, Diplomats

JN2209114490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman made the following statement to INA: The Iraqi Government has decided to close down the military attaches' offices in the embassies of France, Germany, Spain, the United States, the Netherlands, Greece, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Italy, and Egypt and to expel their military attaches and staff in these military attaches' offices. The Iraqi Government has also decided to expel some diplomats in some of these embassies and to give them between four, seven, and 10 days to leave.

The Iraqi Government also issued a decision restricting the movement of the diplomats of these embassies to within the city limits of Baghdad, or within an area not exceeding 30 km from the city center.

Paper Assails Expulsion of Press Advisers

JN2309091190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH condemns the decisions to expel the Iraqi press attaches in Washington, Paris, and Cairo and describes these decisions as unobjective and hostile.

In an article published today, the paper adds that Washington's decision and before it Paris' decision in this regard are bound to raise a question about the democracy they have bragged about for so long. The paper goes on to say: They claimed a nonexistent eagerness to maintain democracy and accused others of violating democratic traditions.

AL-THAWRAH wonders: What democracy is this that cannot endure people who have nothing but their minds, pens, and papers—people whose only task is to engage in democratic dialogue, in the art of persuasion; to react to mistakes and lies; and to defend and vindicate truth?

The paper goes on to say: The task of the press adviser is to present the other opinion even if we were to presume that this other opinion does not reflect truth. Have the democracies of Mr. Bush and the veteran socialist Mitterrand become so annoyed by the other opinion despite the blockade imposed on it, and all the misinformation and misrepresentation campaigns being led by the Western media establishments which are dominated by world Zionism.

AL-THAWRAH touches on the move taken in this regard by the Husni [Mubarak] government and says: We find this position by the Husni [Mubarak] regime strange. However, this government does not have free choice. We believe that the decision in this regard was not that of this government. If it were to be a decision of its own, then this government must have made this move because the servant seeks to imitate his master.

The paper says that these unobjective and ridiculous measures confirm that our positions which are expressed by our media and its representatives, including Iraqi press advisers, are capable of influencing events and facing lies and falsheoods. Had this not been the case, the super democrats would not have chosen to expel persons who chase after sound opinions and sincere positions.

Government Decides Not To Attend UNGA Session

JN2309191090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1826 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has sent a letter to Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations. INA has learned that Iraq asked the UN chief to see to the circulation of this letter as a document of the UN Security Council and the United Nations. The following is the text of the letter:

Your Excellency: I am honored to inform you, as has been the practice over the years, that we applied to U.S. authorities for permission for a private plane to land in New York to carry me and the members of the Iraqi delegation to the UN General Assembly [UNGA] proceedings. On 20 September 1990 the U.S. State Department communicated to the Iraqi ambassador in Washington its refusal to grant this application and suggested that the foreign minister and his delegation arrive in New York on a commercial flight.

I have not the slightest doubt that your excellency must fully appreciate that if security considerations in the past dictated that I travel to New York on a private plane, the said considerations assume extreme importance under the present circumstances.

This decision by the U.S. authorities effectively means that the Iraqi foreign minister will not be able to go to New York to take part in the deliberations of the UN General Assembly, put forth Iraq's case, and hold dialogue with representatives of other nations. This measure assumes special significance at this particular time when the UN Security Council, prompted by the United States and its Western allies, is about to pass a resolution calling for an air blockade of Iraq.

In view of the above, I regret to communicate to you the Iraqi Government's decision not to participate in the current UN General Assembly's session so long as the U.S. Administration does not lift the restrictions that prevent the arrival of the Iraqi foreign minister and his accompanying delegation to attend the UN General Assembly in the usual way and on an Iraqi plane.

On this occasion, I would like to indicate that the successive resolutions passed by the UN Security Council in a manner unprecedented in the history of the Council—both in terms of content and in terms of the speed with which they were passed—in practice means an insistence on the logic of force, arbitrariness, and terror to block any road to dialogue and a free exchange of views to address the situation with justice and fairness. I would also like to stress to you that Iraq has never bowed, nor will it ever bow to U.S. and Western intimidation and will stand up for its rights with resolve and courge.

Please accept our highest regards.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Iraq.

[Dated] Baghdad, 23 September 1990.

UN Protest Lodged on Oil Tanker Search 14 Sep

JN2109195190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1908 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] United Nations, 21 Sep (INA)—Iraq has informed the Security Council of its strong protest and denunciation of the aggression committed by the U.S., British, and Australian naval forces against the Iraqi oil tanker, al-Faw, although it was empty and was sailing in the Gulf of Oman.

This came in a letter sent by Iraq's permanent UN representative to the UN secretary general and whose official text was distributed at the international organization as a Security Council document.

The letter explains that two U.S. gunboats chased the oil tanker, al-Faw, in the Gulf of Oman on 14 September while a U.S. jet fighter and a drone flew over it.

It adds that U.S. helicopters and gunboats tried to force the tanker to return to the Indian Ocean or stop for search. The gunboats fired warning shots, although the captain informed the gunboats that his tanker was empty—a fact which was clear from its Plimsoll line.

The letter also says that shots were fired again over the oil tanker, al-Faw, to force it to stop. Forces from the U.S., British, and Australian navies searched it, supported by four helicopters, one jet fighter, and two gunboats. The tanker's holds and crew quarters were searched and photographed. The letter adds that the oil tanker then headed toward Iraqi territorial waters.

An INA correspondent in New York said that in its letter, Iraq urged the international community to take measures to prevent such aggressions against Iraqi oil tankers.

Nation Prepared for 'Protracted Battle'

JN2109175490 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The Iraqi Revolution Command Council [RCC] has declared its determination to oppose foreign forces. This came in a statement issued by the RCC, following a lengthy meeting late last night. [passage omitted]

Answering a question whether any decisions have been made on the possibilities of an explosion in the Gulf crisis, Iraqi Information Minister Latis Nusayyif Jasim said that Iraq is ready to engage in a protracted battle against U.S. Forces in the Gulf.

[Begin recording in English] [Jasim] If America wants a short war, we do not like short wars; in that, aircraft come and attack targets here in Iraq—five, six. [sentence as heard] We will make it a long war because we want all the American targets, and everywhere will be burned. We will attack American Forces in Saudi Arabia. We are sure. We are exactly sure that America will be the first to suffer in this war.

[Reporter] The statement this morning suggests that this could go on for three, five, or even six years, as I understand it.

[Jasim] America cannot stand four years. America cannot stand four months, because we know the people of America. When the American people see the dead (?carried) by aircraft and ships, Bush will fall. [end recording]

Paper Says U.S. Put Other Troops on Frontline

JN2409101090 Baghdad INA in English 0927 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep. 24, INA—THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER daily said here today that right from the start of the deployment of its troops in Saudi Arabia, the White House was careful in picking up deployment locations based on such geo-military considerations as would ensure the least possible casualty among American troops under war circumstances.

It said that hence, most of the U.S. troops are at present deployed in high seas and in rear positions hundreds of miles away from hot confrontation lines. As for the soldiers of other nations, including the French, they remain the frontline forces who are expected to receive the heaviest blows.

The daily added that acceptance by such a European country as France that its nationals be classified as a second-grade human beings indicates, the least to say, that the political leaders in Paris have gone too far in violating their own independence. For the Third World countries, France has been independence, far from the influence of

American Administration. Hence, these countries have been counting much of France's role, as a big power with the right of veto in the Security Council, in defending their causes against foreign aggressive plans.

It pointed out that one has to say that France was the supporter of the oppressed and poor Third World countries for decades, especially under the late General Charles de Gaulle and the successive governments that followed.

The Iraqi paper further pointed out that, however, things appear to have changed in Paris, to the detriment of other nations. Paris seems to have willingly given in to U.S. pressure and hence is now an ally to Washington which comes only after the U.S. traditional ally, Britain, in terms of importance. This means that France has withdrawn to be a back-bencher in the international politics rather than a leading nation with independent policies.

While regretting such backward march of a friendly country, one has yet to find out whether the government of President Mitterrand will return to the course which gained France the international acknowledgement as a leading and just country, let us hope so, it concluded.

'Authorized' Spokesman Responds to Bush Statements

JN2209145590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1409 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Commenting on Bush's statements to the press on 21 September, 1990, an authorized spokesman has stated the following:

Speaking to journalists, Bush said that he told a congressional session on the Gulf crisis on the same morning that sanctions will remain a strategic option to resolve the crisis. Bush added that he explained to Congress that Iraq's sponsorship of terrorism will have very serious repercussions. This is another of Bush's paradoxes and marks a further contradiction that has been typical of many of his statements. His massive buildup of forces does not count as aggression, but when the Arabs act in defense of the honor of their nation and its sanctities, he views it as terrorism. His contention that he does not want war while presuming to call any act against his forces and his interests terror and holds Iraq responsible for that, betrays the danger of fabricating pretexts for an aggression against Iraq.

Bush also touched on the defensive operations and additional appropriations he sought from Congress, but we do not know what he means to defend. If he means to defend Saudi Arabia, the allegation has been proven false. In any case, we assume, according to general military standards, that whatever forces of occupation are now in the region are sufficient to defend Saudi oil. As for those who are afraid on account of their disgraceful stand and their feeling that they have committed an act of aggression against the sacred shrines of Arabs and Muslims, they will never know peace of mind, even if all the soldiers on earth were to assemble with them, since God the great has taken from them peace of mind after they committed the crime of committing aggression against the land of his old house and the land of his honest messenger. However, if his slogan is the return of Kuwait, the slogan of returning Kuwait cannot be separated from aggression, and the lowly will be accursed rather than reach Kuwait, after their bodies have been torn by the fire of the valiant and then trampled under the feet of the fighters who are defending their country and the honor or Islam and Arabism.

As for the continued U.S. buildup in the region and applying pressure on other nations to dispatch forces to the region, this is in conflict with Bush's contention that he does not want to send a signal of war to Iraq and that for the moment he will limit himself to sanctions. Furthermore, Bush's aggressiveness, from the first step he took to occupy the region to his subsequent aggressive preparations, is exposed by his refusal to give an undertaking that he will not be the first to strike.

On the Arab Popular Forces conference held in Amman, Jordan during the period 15-17 September to show solidarity with Iraq, Bush said: I was very much worried by the outcome of the meeting recently held in Amman, as numerous extremists met and spoke of terrorist actions. We hold Saddam Husayn responsible for any terrorist act that might be carried out against us.

Commenting on this point, I would like to say the following: First, Bush views those who met in Amman, the representatives of all nationalist, and pan-Arab parties, as well as the representatives of professional organizations and political figures in the Arab homeland, as mere terrorists. That is the case because he told the American people on more than one occasion, as part of attempts to misrepresent facts to them and to mislead them, that the majority of the Arab nation's sons support him against Baghdad. Similarly, the meeting of this large number of parties that represent the nation and the expression of their honest and sincere position against U.S. hostility has exposed how wrong the allegation is that the Arab nation's sons support Bush's policy against that of Baghdad. Moreover, by what right does Bush hold President leader Saddam Husayn responsible for the behavior of free Arabs to vindicate the free decisions they made in Amman? If President leader Saddam Husayn were actually isolated from the Arabs, as U.S. politicians, including Bush, told the American people, how then can someone who is isolated from the Arab nation be held responsible for the policies of its sons?

If Bush wants His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn to be held responsible for the behavior of the Arab nation's sons, he must first retract his statement to the effect that Iraq is isolated from the nation. Second, he must issue a U.S. decree appointing His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn an official responsible for this task, just as his predecessor issued decrees appointing [King] Fahd and Husni [Mubarak]. This by itself is not enough. That is because we are democrats. The prerequisites of democracy, as Mr. Bush is well aware, require that the authorized representative and the one whom he represents agree to the terms of representation before it can be considered legally acceptable. Afterward, it is required that His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn—and before this, that the Arab nation's people and its nationalist parties and political figures—accept such a mandate so that he can be held accountable for it. After all these things have happened, Bush can hold His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn responsible for the actions of the nation's sons. What a weak and flimsy argument is the one advanced by Bush!

As for Bush's remark that he would not object to an air embargo against Iraq, the authorized spokesman asked: How can Bush say that he is not in favor of war when he fires on ships and announces readiness to open fire on planes? Does Bush, the president of superpower No. one, not know that all these things are acts of war?

The authorized spokesman added: Bush fell into making an exposed and desperate attempt when he commented on the convocation of the conference of the Arab Popular Forces conference as a show of solidarity in Amman, by saying that he does not blame King Husayn, but at the same time holds Saddam Husayn responsible for this. The CIA effort that Bush meant to use to drive a wedge into the strong ties between His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn and his brother His Majesty King Husayn is a malicious effort, yet unsuccessful. This effort has harmed Bush and turned him into a dwarf instead of harming the relationship between his excellency the president leader and his brother King Husayn. This is because they are standing in the same trench against injustice and the unjust and they face U.S. aggression, regardless of the fact that their duties might differ in this.

On his opinion concerning statements made by some members of Congress speaking of increasing war prospects, Bush told reporters: I do not know, because I have not told them this. However, you see that we have continued to dispatch our forces and so are the British and French. In this reply of his, Bush, as all petty people do, sought to absolve himself of war intentions and eventualities. In Bush's there is clear evidence revealing his intentions. As for France and Britain, they must learn the lesson, because these statements contain an unmistakably clear signal that Bush seeks to embroil them now that the dangers posed by the war and its repercussions to his post and political future have become clear to him.

INA Editor Reacts to Bush Terrorist Warning

JN2209113990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1035 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] The INA international affairs editor has commented on statements made by Bush last night, in which he held Iraq responsible for terrorism and for threatening U.S. interests, and in which he noted his annoyance at the Arab Popular Forces Conference which convened in Amman and its resolutions, considering this a threat to the U.S. presence. The INA editor said: This intentional signal from Bush—despite the great U.S. military concentration in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]—raises in us many doubts and fears that the U.S. Administration is planning a terrorist act that will use the pretext of a terrorist threat as a pretext for aggression.

The INA editor added: While cautioning the Bush administration against this behavior, Iraq cannot curb the large-scale popular movement extending from the ocean to the gulf that is denouncing, condemning, and in fact rejecting the U.S. presence in the land of Holy Mecca and al-Madinah. This is because popular reactions cannot be controlled in the face of the intensive presence of the American forces that provokes the emotions of Arabs and Muslims everywhere.

The INA editor stressed that planners and policymakers take this issue into consideration in the confrontations. We also assert that if a confrontation takes place, who can guarantee anything to anyone? The editor said that the interests of Americans in the Arab region will not be safe from danger. Bush must be briefed in detail on the extent of the popular anger and the decisions of popular, mass, and religious organizations, as well as parties and personalities, against the U.S. interests and presence in the region.

The INA editor ridiculed Bush's allegation that demonstrations by millions in Baghdad and the Iraqi towns and villages when his message was aired were all staged. The editor said that such a statement shows the complete shallowness of Bush's thinking in knowing the people of Iraq.

The INA editor said: God be praised, because our opponent is on this level of stupidity, misjudgment, and ignorance of the depth of our lofty people's morale and high preparedness in the confrontation and stand against the U.S. presence in the region.

Concluding his commentary, the INA editor said: Bush's description of the Egyptian regime as the faithful ally makes us feel sorry for Husni [Mubarak] and his regime. Bush is describing agentry as alliance, and infidelity as faithfulness. We call on the Egyptian people and Army not to be believers on the path of Bush and his agent Husni.

Commentary Questions U.S. Mideast Involvement

LD2109215590 Baghdad International Service in English 2000 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Successive American administrations have been viewing the issue of terrorism through their own perspective throughout the Arab-Israeli conflict. The United States is known to have continuously sided with Israel and against the Arabs in a bellicose and [word indistinct] manner. It could be said that the interests of Israel and some Gulf shaykhs appear to be viewed by the United States Administration as being [words indistinct] than the interests of the United States itself. (?Voting) on that, the Americans consider any Arabic threat against Israel an aggressive and terrorist act.

Therefore, American views about the Middle East problem have never been affected in the (?least) possible way. for example, the United States does not take into account the roots of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It furthermore suffers a considerable defect in its outlook as it further considers the situation before the planting of Israel—how it was planted: was the state of the state existing before that [word indistinct], or what was the state of those who lived therein? [sentence as heard]

The American policy only discusses the [words indistinct], and this means the protection of Israel and some of the Arabs. Hence, the slightest objection against such a view is considered by the United States as either an extremist or a terrorist attitude. On the basis [words indistinct] society to shape its ideas about terrorism. American imperialism differs a great deal from the concept of colonialism. In fact, it is an economic and political invasion in the first place. This is done through agents, traitors, and allies. American imperialism and the [words indistinct] peace, the vital sources of every country in order to expand its hegemony on the whole world.

United States ambitions have no limits. They appear to have gone beyond that to create the United Nations, (?fixing) the world body as an instrument to improve the United States image. The United Nations decisions, therefore, have become useless. Instead of working toward the establishment of peace the United Nations has not only done nothing to stop aggression but has encouraged aggressive tendencies. Having the United Nations cover, now the United States is trying to occupy the Arab lands, including Iraq, which only recently began to overcome the difficulties facing its progress. (?To this effect) America appears to have become very active, using the shaykhs of Saudi Arabia to ensure all facilities to the United States presence in the Arab Gulf region, including using holy lands of Arabia.

An overview of the whole American policy in the region shows that there have been many attempts to contain this area in order to give full protection to Israel and (?attack) the wealth of the Arab region. The new conspiracy against the Arab nations and Iraq in particular is not new. Especially that Iraq has now started to advance and achieve scientific progress under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn. The new condition in Iraq seems to have caused concern among the imperialists and Zionists. Therefore, they have tried to conspire against Iraq, thinking that it will give us (?its principles and stands). The United States Administration is (?interfering) with the illusion that it will be quite easy to defeat Iraq with the help of some Arab rulers like those in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. However, Iraq is not alone in the battlefield [words indistinct].

Foreign Women, Children Leave Baghdad 22 Sep

JN2209192590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—In implementation of the orders of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn allowing the guests of Iraq to travel home or stay in Iraq if they so wish, a group of foreign women and children left Baghdad this evening.

In statements to INA, the departing guests of Iraq expressed thanks for the noble hospitality and good care that they have been shown by the Iraqi people and leadership during their stay in Iraq. They described the gesture of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn granting them the freedom to travel or stay in Iraq if they so wish as a prelude to world peace. They added that this gesture reflects Iraq's goodwill toward efforts to establish security and peace in the region and throughout the world.

Foreign Nationals Praise Saddam Initiatives 21 Sep

JN2109193290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Sep 90

[All names as received]

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—The fOreign nationals hosted by the Iraqi people in their vital installations have praised President Saddam Husayn's decision to allow foreign women and children to leave for their homeland if they wish. In statements to INA, the foreign nationals said that the initiative President Saddam Husayn addressed to the world on 12 August to achieve peace in the Arab region is solid and clear evidence that his excellency is a peace-loving man who is working for stability and security and to save the world from the catastrophe of a destructive war.

Allan Quake from Britain praised President Saddam Husayn's positions and initiatives to achieve peace in the region and to avert the catastrophe of war whose consequences would be disastrous for the world. He expressed his satisfaction with and appreciation for the Iraqi people and their leader President Saddam Husayn for the hospitality accorded to Iraq's guests by his excellency and for his great concern about them. He said that thanks to this concern, his wife decided to stay with him after the decision was taken to allow foreign women and children to travel to their homeland if they wished. Allan urged U.S. President Bush and British Prime Minister Thatcher to renounce their arrogance and to move toward diplomatic solutions to the Arabian Gulf and Middle East crisis to save the region and the world from the specter of war and destruction.

Glen Woolmot from Britain said that the Gulf problem should be resolved within the Arab community without unjustified foreign interference. He added that the diplomatic solution and rational thinking are the best ways to find solutions to world problems without complicating these problems as this would result in igniting the war and destroying mankind. He expressed his pleasure at and appreciation for President Saddam Husayn's decision to allow the children and women to go home as well as the good treatment and hospitality he is receiving from the Iraqi people and leadership.

Philip Birgi from France addressed a call to French President Francois Mitterrand not to involve France and French Forces in this entanglement and to seek good will and peace in the region. He added that there are common humanitarian ties and relations between the Iraqi and the French people. He added that President Saddam Husayn's decision to allow the women and children to travel to their homeland is a humanitarian decision that confirms the good intention to achieve security and peace among all world nations. He expressed his great pride in the care and hospitality accorded to Iraq's guests by the president and people of Iraq.

Mr. Francois Kashit from France praised the humanitarian spirit President Saddam Husayn has demonstrated through his initiative to bring about peace. He said that all Iraqis want peace and do not want war. He said: I hope that the U.S. and British Governments will pursue the same course so that peace and security can prevail in the region.

M. John Remington from the United States described President Saddam Husayn's decision to allow foreign women and children to return to their homelands as a humanitarian and good decision, which stresses the good intentions of the Iraqi Government and people toward the nations of the world. He also called for a diplomatic solution to the region's problems without the use of force, pointing out that the economic siege of the Iraqi people is not humanitarian at all.

Mr. Restiro Heranish from Japan expressed his pride in the peace initiative announced by leader President Saddam Husayn and in allowing foreign women and children to travel and return to their homelands. He said that peace is sought by all nations of the world, because war will annihilate nations and will produce grave results against mankind. He said he is the object of care and attention and that the Iraqi Government and people are offering him and all the other guests everything they need and that they have no problems.

Mr. Mikihikuma Matsoshita from Japan urged Thatcher and Bush to solve the Gulf crisis peacefully without threats to use force and weapons. He added that the economic siege of Iraq is an un-humanitarian decision designed to starve the peaceful Iraqi people and prevent milk and medicine from reaching innocent children.

Mr. Wolfgang Krondman from the FRG said he is being treated very well and that he feels happy over President Saddam Husayn's decision to allow foreign women and children to return to their homelands. He added that the diplomatic solution is the best way to end the problem, bring about peace in the region, and keep the specter of war and destruction at bay. He also appealed to the world to end the economic siege imposed by the United States on Iraq's people and children by force, and to allow food and medicine to reach Iraq, pointing out that preventing food, medicine, and children's milk is an illegal and un-humanitarian action.

22 Sep

JN2209161890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Sep 90

[All names as received]

[Text] Mosul, 22 Sep (INA)—Foreign nationals who are being hosted by the Iraqi people at their vital installations have praised President Saddam Husayn's decision allowing foreign women and children to leave for their homelands if they so desire.

In statements to INA, they stressed that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative to achieve peace in the Arab region and the world is clear proof of his excellency's love for peace and his desire to achieve stability and security in the region and to spare the region and the peoples of the world the catastrophe of a devastating war.

Mr. Jack Habil, from France, has said that the care he receives is generous and excellent, and that he feels happy with President Saddam Husayn's decision allowing foreign women and children to return to their homelands. He described the Iraqis as hospitable people and their treatment of guests is worthy of praise and appreciation. He said: I have felt this throughout my work in Iraq for many years. I have Iraqi friends with whom I have good relations of friendship. This is an indication of the kind of relations between the French and Iraqi peoples. He expressed the hope that the Gulf and the Arab homeland's problems would be resolved through diplomatic means to achieve security and stability in the region, and to avoid the use of force that would lead to the destruction of the world. He called for lifting the economic blockade imposed against Iraq and for allowing the entry of foodstuffs, medicines, and baby milk.

Mr. Trikoshi Andre Lewis, also from France, expressed appreciation for President Saddam Husayn's initiative to achieve peace in the region, and his excellency's decision allowing foreign women and children to return to their homelands, if they wish. He expressed regret over the presence of the U.S. forces in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Arab region, considering this as a serious issue that does not serve peace, security, and stability.

Mr. Peter Holms, from Britain, expressed his great pride in President Saddam Husayn's decision allowing foreign women and children to return to their homelands. He expressed his pleasure with this decision, and described it as a humanitarian one. He also expressed the hope that peace will prevail in the region, and that the diplomatic solution will be the right solution. He also praised the generous care and the good treatment Iraq's guests receive from President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people.

Mr. Alan Brook, also from Britain, praised the good hospitality he is enjoying in Iraq and the good treatment he is receiving from President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people.

Mr. Richard Duncan, also from Britain, stressed that President Saddam Husayn's decision allowing foreign women and children to leave for their homelands, and his excellency's initiative to achieve peace in the region, constitute unequivocal proof of the good intentions to spare the region and the world a devastating war. He called on the world's peace-loving governments to exert efforts to resolve the problem through diplomatic means and to save the region from the specter of war and catastrophe. He expressed his thanks and appreciation for the Iraqi Government and people for the generous hospitality and care Iraq's guests are being accorded.

Mr. Robert Scott Schiller, from the United States, called for settling the Gulf crisis peacefully, and for not resorting to the use of force. He described the economic blockade imposed against Iraq as a mistaken decision.

Mr. Soko Niti, from France, expressed appreciation for President Saddam Husayn's decision allowing foreign women and children to leave for their countries, and described this decision as humanitarian. He also praised the great care he and Iraq's guests are being given, and called for lifting the economic blockade imposed against the Iraqi people, especially because it is an inhuman action.

Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives in Baghdad

JN2209185790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a delegation on an official visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Hamed Karoui said that his visit to Iraq falls within the framework of the strong fraternal ties between Iraq and Tunisia. He added that he is carrying a written message to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn from his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on bilateral ties and the developments in the situation in the Arabian Gulf.

Karoui was welcomed at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and the Tunisian ambassador in Baghdad.

The delegation accompanying Hamed Karoui comprises Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Boulares, a number of Tunisian parliamentarians, and officials of the Prime Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Confers With Ramadan

JN2309134390 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 23, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy premier today met here Tunisian Premier Hamed Karoui. During the meeting, which was attended by Mr. Tariq 'Aziz deputy premier and foreign minister means necessary for developing bilateral ties through following up what had been reached within the frame of the joint committee for economic, trade and technical cooperation and finding new scopes to contribute to expanding and diversifying the cooperation, were discussed.

Mr. Ramadan reviewed dimensions of the U.S.-led conspiracy against Iraq referring that the Americans' use of their stooges in the region to conspire on Iraq in an attempt to deprive it from its legitimate normal and historical rights, falls within the chain of plots and aggression.

The Tunisian premier renewed Tunisia's solidarity with Iraq's leadership and people and total support for Iraq's national stances. The Tunisian premier said that growth of Iraq's military and technological capabilities and its emergence strong from the war had escalated the fierce campaign against it in a desperate bid to thwart its progress and development.

Mr. Karoui expressed his country's appreciation over Iraq's national attitudes and close cooperation, confirming its strong determination and persistence on strengthening and deepening cooperation relations with Iraq under different circumstances to be an extention to the ideal relations that stamped course of cooperation between the two countries during the past years.

Delivers Message to Saddam

JN2309134090 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 23, INA—President Saddam Husayn today received Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui. The Tunisian premier delivered a written message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali concerning situation in the region.

During the audience, President Husayn appreciated the sincere stance of Tunisia and asked Mr Karoui to convey his greetings to President Ben Ali and his appreciation for the Tunisian people's stance. Mr Karoui renewed his country and people's solidarity with Iraq.

Present at the meeting were member of the Revolution Command Council and First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairss Habib Boulares and Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee at the Tunisian Parliament al-Baji al-Masbasi [name as received].

Departs 23 Sep

JN2309194690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1354 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Sep (INA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and his delegation left Baghdad this afternoon after a two-day official visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, he said: We had the honor to meet with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and we conveyed to his excellency a written message from his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali dealing with the close relations between Iraq and Tunisia, as well as developments in the Arabian Gulf. [passage omitted]

Correction to Deadline for Return to Iraq, Kuwait

JN2109103290

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Resident Arabs Given Deadline To Return," published in the 20 September Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 26: Column two, only paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...and up to 23 October, after which.... (correcting date)

Levi Leaves for UN; Others for IMF Talks

TA2309055790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has left for New York where he will take part in the UN General Assembly. While in New York, he is expected to hold meetings with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker; his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze; Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 23 September reports that Levi "will also meet with the Bulgarian president." It adds that "before his departure, Minister Levi said he expects to be briefed by his counterpart James Baker on the results of his efforts to end the state of war between Israel and the Arab countries, in the wake of Baker's talks in Syria and Saudi Arabia."]

Senior Finance Ministry officials leave today for abroad. Finance Minister Moda‘i, his director general, and chief auditor fly to the United States to attend the discussions of the IMF. Deputy Finance Minister Yosef ‘Azran leaves for France to meet with potential investors.

New Peace Moves Not Authorized

TA2309103990 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Sources in the Prime Minister's Office yesterday evening reported that Foreign Minister David Levi was not given any authorization to propose new ideas for furthering the peace process during his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker this week. [passage omitted]

The sources added that Prime Minister Shamir was "very pleased" with Levi's recent meetings with Baker, and especially with his success in postponing discussion of the secretary of state's questions regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation. The sources said that before Levi's departure no special consultations were held on Israel's position, which they said "would remain unchanged." [passage omitted]

Sources close to Levi claimed that the foreign minister has a number of ideas which could effect progress on the composition of the Palestinian delegation, but that these were not endorsed by the prime minister. Political sources reported that Levi would concentrate on formulating ways to further the peace process in the days that remain until his meeting with Baker on Wednesday [26 September].

The sources added that Levi and Baker would discuss Israel's request for U.S. guarantees for $400 million in immigrant absorption loans, as well as Israel's requests for increased economic and military aid.

Soviet officials told their Israeli counterparts last week that Levi's meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, scheduled for the beginning of next week, would be "practical" and "different from those in the past." Sources in the Foreign Ministry do not rule out an upgrade in relations between the two countries, but officials qualified that there have recently been contradictory statements by Soviet spokesmen regarding the existence of preconditions for the full resumption of diplomatic relations.

The two men will extensively discuss Soviet suggestions to establish a Middle East "forum" to handle crises as well as the Soviet proposal for an international conference to clear the region of nonconventional weapons.

It was reported that Israel has expressed its readiness to consider these suggestions; Jerusalem, however, has stressed clearing the region of chemical weapons, while Moscow wants the agenda to include all types of nonconventional weapons—including nuclear ones. The Soviets added, however, that each weapons category could be dealt with separately.

During his meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Levi will ask for a larger Israeli contingent at the Israeli scientific legation operating in Beijing. The two men will also discuss expanding commercial, agricultural, and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

Levi will meet the Yugoslav foreign minister and demand the full restoration of diplomatic relations. He will reject any offers of partial relations.

Levi will also meet the foreign ministers of Japan, Turkey, the FRG, Spain, the Netherlands, and Brazil. He will also see the Bulgarian president and the UN secretary general.

Levi Interviewed on Visit

TA2409083290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by U.S.-based correspondent ‘Oded Ben-‘Ami in New York on 23 September—recorded]

[Text] [Levi] Israel had warned of the dangers inherent in Saddam Husayn's threats, but, I regret to say, its warnings were not heeded. Today everyone realizes that he acted on his threats; furthermore, he continues issuing threats. A man who has a record of carrying out his threats should be taken seriously. Israel is following his threats and his every move, and it is taking the appropriate steps. Israel hopes that the United States and what is nowadays called the Free World will stand resolutely against any aggression or continued aggression. Where Israel's security is concerned, when there is real danger, Israel has always relied on itself and its power.

[Ben-‘Ami] Mr. Levi, this coming Wednesday you will meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Do you expect this meeting to result in another step toward the implementation of the peace process Secretary Baker spoke about during his Middle East tour?

[Levi] It must be understood that the peace initiative is Israel's, the Israeli Government's. The additions the PLO wants to introduce must not be allowed to assume any dimension or status at this time—or to receive any support—that they were denied in the past, before 'Arafat exchanged hugs with Saddam Husayn.

The Israeli initiative has an additional facet, and I am glad the secretary of state accepted it and started operating on it: The Arab countries should hear from the United States that the state of affairs in which Israel is constantly threatened, in which a state of war continues as a matter of routine, is impossible. It is in the United States' interest to attain an end to war between the Arab countries and Israel and the beginning of a peaceful era. That is our hope, and we will continue taking action toward that end.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr. Levi, in your talk with Secretary Baker at the beginning of this month in Washington, the possibility of a speedy resolution to the question of guarantees was discussed. Although you are now on your second visit to the United States, the Israeli Government has not received these guarantees yet.

[Levi] We agreed that this would be done later; that is, we will agree on a formula as early as this month. Mr. Baker knows that the Israeli Government has a position, an ideology, and an outlook. Anyone who thinks that the Israeli Government will abandon this position, which gave us our mandate, is simply misreading the situation, and Mr. Baker is reading the situation correctly. One government was already disbanded, and he has no desire whatsoever to see this government enter a confrontation or, God forbid, struggle through a crisis. I do not expect Mr. Baker—I wish I could—to endorse all the positions of the Israeli Government—ideological and otherwise—but, with an understanding for the constraints that face us, I hope we will find the required solution together.

[Ben-'Ami] To conclude, Mr. Foreign Minister: You are to meet with your Soviet counterpart here. A tradition of meetings between Israeli ministers and heads of the Soviet administration has been established recently, but diplomatic relations are not forthcoming. Do you feel comfortable with this situation?

[Levi] First of all, the very fact that meetings are being held attest to a positive change. Our ministers and a Foreign Ministry delegation have met with Soviet Foreign Ministry officials in Moscow to discuss bilateral and regional issues. Relations have improved: There have been reciprocal visits of academicians and trade officials; joint projects have been launched. All that cannot replace diplomatic ties between the two countries. I hope we will be able to progress quickly toward the resumption of relations, although there is probably still a long way to go. I would have liked it to take place yesterday, not tomorrow.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr. Foreign Minister, thank you very much.

[Levi] All the best.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 24 September carries an interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by U.S.-based correspondent Ya'aqov Eylon conducted in New York on the evening of 23 September in which Levi refers to Saddam Husayn's threats against Israel: "We must bring it to everyone's attention—and we are doing so—that the operation of the United States and its partners in the Gulf is likely to accelerate the implementation of the threat against Israel. They must take this into consideration."]

'Secret Initiatives' for Talks With Arab States

TA2309104890 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] Israel has recently conveyed to the United States the need for secret initiatives to establish contacts between Israel and the moderate Arab states, such as Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Emirates.

These initiatives come against the background of the Persian Gulf crisis, which places Israel in the same camp as these Arab countries, with all of them supporting the United States.

Senior political sources in Jerusalem have declared that these ideas coincide with the Israeli Government's peace initiative, and will indirectly help further negotiations on the Palestinian issue. The sources added that a trend toward "Arabization" has recently set in among policymakers in Washington.

Egypt Asks for Restricted Transit From Jordan

TA2409101390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Egypt does not want Palestinians carrying Jordanian passports, as well as Kuwaiti and Iraqi nationals, in its territory. Our correspondent Yehudit Silberstein reports that information to this effect was relayed to Israel's border terminals through which such nationals may pass.

Ferries transporting refugees from al-Aqabah to al-Nuwaybi' resumed their trips today. Last week, the Jordanians prohibited these boat trips.

King Husayn Addresses America 22 Sep

JN2209203190 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 22 Sep 90

["Full recording" of King Husayn's address to the American public, followed by questions put to the king in Amman via satellite by CNN reporter in Atlanta on 22 September]

[Text] A thoughtful, perceptive, humane letter of encouragement from an American citizen by the name of Mr. Edwin Brown, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, which I recently received helped reinvigorate my belief in the ultimate decency and sense of fair play of the American people and, indeed, in the decency of mankind.

He wrote that: It must be tempting for you to conclude that all your efforts to restore self-sanity in high places are futile, and not even understood by the millions of the relatively innocent, who will bear the brunt of any military, social, and economical debacle and yet, you are at this moment launched on one last, entrapped effort to convince your official counterparts throughout the Arab world of the folly of a military solution.

Mr. Brown went on to suggest that maybe what America needs is not an additional ally, but a friend, ready to speak truth to power, and that if the Hashemite Kingdom is to play such a role, may these words of counsel, which I learned so long ago that I no longer remember their source sustain you: If your cause is worthy, it is not necessary to hope in order to undertake, nor is it necessary to succeed in order to persevere.

I shall, after 37 years of service amongst my people in Jordan and in the Arab world and with a total commitment to justice, peace, and human rights and dignity, and for as long as what remains of my life, remember Mr. Brown's letter and cherish his sentiments with gratitude.

He quoted an American statesman who had earned my admiration and respect, the late Adlai Stevenson, as saying after his electoral defeat: I am like the boy who badly stubbed his toe. Too old to cry, too frank to pretend it didn't hurt.

Well, I will never admit to defeat, because that would mean taking the easy way out, which I could never have done from the outset, since it is the way of those who do not care but for themselves, and of those who lie to hide their lies, and those who manipulate for what they perceive to be a limited, short-term advantage. I often wonder how such individual beings could enjoy life and live with themselves, when the lives of people in an entire region such as ours and beyond, and the lives of future generations, are at stake. I've conceived of the possibility of adopting the characteristics of a chameleon, and I am incapable of doing so. The hurt is there from those who do not know the facts, because in the world of today they should, and those who are easily misled by believing what they hear or read without verifying. Who can blame them, when more often than not, they receive inputs from supposedly responsible people in positions of authority and power?

The United States has a far greater responsibility on the moral plane now than at any time in its history to uphold the standards, principles, and lofty ideals in its equal treatment of people the world over, and to provide leadership and set an example in its treatment of similar issues with one standard in all parts of our universe. This is what old friends of the United States, such as I, expect as we seek to maintain and strengthen our relations in partnership and to build a better tomorrow, based always on the solid foundations of trust and mutual respect with the government and people of the United States as well as with governments and people the world over.

In this spirit I address this message to you at this time of serious and ominous crisis in this region, where my government and I have been and still are exerting every effort to address it and contribute to resolving it peacefully, honorably, and fairly. We must avert an explosion in this highly inflammable area straddling the world's richest oil reserves that would cause untold death, destruction, and misery with disastrous repercussions far beyond this vital region and this period of human life.

We believe that the position of Jordan could not be clearer to anyone who seeks the truth. It is based on the principles of international law, which Jordan has respected and always called on all nations to respect. Despite its close relations with Iraq, Jordan had no prior knowledge, nor any form of involvement in the Iraqi plan to act militarily against Kuwait. Neither I nor my government and people were ever involved in such ventures anywhere. Nor was I ever privy to the Iraqi leadership's thought process leading to its decision to invade Kuwait, nor its timing of the operation, nor its scope.

Jordan stands by the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. This is the basis of our stand on all related issues, including the Falklands crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict, where we were involved in the formulation of Security Council Resolution 242 23 years ago and which must be the basis and foundation of the diligently sought honorable, just, and lasting Palestinian and Arab-Israeli peace. In upholding this principle, Jordan could not contradict itself by accepting, endorsing, or recognizing any demographic or political changes that result from war in this region or anywhere else in the world. Hence, we have continued to recognize the State and Government of Kuwait and will continue to do so unless and until the people of Kuwait under conditions of total freedom choose to exercise their legitimate right of self-determination and elect otherwise.

While Jordan recognizes the sovereign right of Saudi Arabia to seek assistance from friendly states and the sovereign right of the United States of America to respond to its request, we strongly feel that the presence of the United States and allied forces on the land of the state which is the custodian of the two holiest shrines of Islam must be terminated within the shortest possible period of time lest it results in incalculable grave consequences involving Arabs and Muslims the world over for generations to come. This is the first time that Islamic history has seen the arrival of non-Arab and non-Muslim forces on the soil of the custodian and moreover at a time when the United States' strategic ally, Israel, occupies the third most holy Islamic shrine in illegally annexed Arab Jerusalem as well as Christendom's holiest sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, an occurrence that now inflames the deepest sensitivities of all Arabs and Muslims alike. The crisis must be resolved peacefully and urgently to avert disaster. Jordan has been and is still seeking to contribute to that end to the best of its abilities, sparing no effort in pursuing this worthy cause. Jordan respects all security council resolutions and is committed to complying with them in good faith. The Jordanian Government has, well within required time frame implemented the Security Council embargo on Iraq despite devastating results to our national economy, which threaten with immediate clear evidence the present and future of Jordan in every sphere of life. Jordan's problems are compounded by a humanitarian problem of great magnitude afflicting Jordanians and Jordanian expatriates in Kuwait, the Gulf, and elsewhere who have lost or are losing everything and are returning home in growing numbers.

Jordan is further attempting to shoulder its humanitarian responsibilities towards the hundreds of thousands of other nationals who are continually passing through our border with Iraq, and are in need of every means of help and support before traveling to their respective countries. All this while Jordan is considered to be in a war zone, and is practically facing a state of siege.

Since the outset, Jordan believed in the need for a major Arab political effort to address and resolve the crisis according to the principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war. Jordan is continuing to spare no effort to achieve this end. At the same time, Jordan has always realized that the crisis was not born in a vacuum, as many believe. It had its origins in a complexity of causes, which must be recognized in order to avert further and future crises. Essentially these causes have three interrelated dimensions:

First, bilateral relations: The border dispute between Iraq and Kuwait is not unique in the Arab world. Jordan has for long advocated the resolution of this and other border problems still awaiting to be finally defined. However, contemporary Kuwait and part of Iraq belonged to the same province under the Ottoman Empire and the Muslim states that predated it. The political border between these countries was drawn not in answer to indigenous political needs, but to facilitate their administration by the British mandatory authorities at that time, and to secure British interests. Consequently, even before independence Iraq sought to reincorporate Kuwait into its territory on the grounds that it had been a district of al-Basrah. The present Iraqi Government was the first that did not actively pursue this claim. It sought an agreement with Kuwait that would secure it an independent access to the sea, which it considers of vital national interest, and define the Iraq-Kuwait border once and for all by mutual agreement. We believe that this crisis cannot be finally resolved unless a mutually accepted—an acceptable solution—is urgently reached.

Another aspect of the problem was Iraq's perception that Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates were waging an economic war against it by exceeding their oil production levels, agreed upon within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC. This resulted in Iraq's sustaining substantial material losses resulting in its inability to meet the basic needs of its people, let alone service and pay its national debt. This was clearly spelled out by Iraq at the Arab summit meeting in Baghdad on the 27th to the 30th May 1990, followed later by an Iraqi memorandum to the League of Arab States implying a clear warning of dangerous consequences unless the situation was urgently and satisfactorily resolved. We in Jordan regarded these developments with grave concern.

Second: The second dimension of the problem is regional. We take note of the feeling that linking this crisis to other problems may exacerbate rather than facilitate the solution of any one of them. Yet, it must be recognized that the extreme frustration which resulted from the lack of progress in solving the Arab-Israeli problem has had a bearing on this crisis. The absence of enthusiasm for implementing Security Council Resolution 242, which like Resolution 660, is based on the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war has embittered Arab public opinion and caused it to question the motives behind the United States' zeal to implement Resolution 660. The United States had always advised Arabs to accept a negotiated settlement and to be willing to accept the principle of reciprocal compromise to achieve a final Arab-Israeli settlement. Arabs accepted the advice on both counts. Yet now they perceive the United States as unwilling to even consider a negotiated settlement between Iraq and Kuwait, and unwilling to accept a compromise short of an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Under the circumstances, priority must be given to defusing the explosive situation in the Gulf. But credible assurances must be given to ensure that other problems of a similar nature would definitely and urgently be addressed thereafter, ideally within the context of long-sought-after international peace conference.

Another serious danger in this region is the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. A United Nations' forum must soon be set up to oversee the removal of all forms of weapons of mass destruction from all parts of the region, including nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological weapons. The experience of the two superpowers in this field would be invaluable, especially as far as verification procedures are concerned.

The third aspect of the regional dimension concerns the sociopolitical order in the region. In the Arab world, national identity has not obliterated Arab feelings of belonging to the greater Arab nation. Considerable tension has arisen from the vast disparity in the standards of living between the oil rich sparsely populated Arab countries on the one hand, and the manpower-rich debt-ridden countries on the other. To redress this problem, it has been suggested that an Arab investment fund and an adequate comprehensive plan be created to support meaningful development in the region in a manner beneficial to all and to the cause of harmony, progress, cohesion, complementarity, and stability within the entire Arab region.

Third, the final dimension of the problem is the nature of relations between this region and the rest of the world. When the cold war came to an end and the Arab and the world moved from confrontation to cooperation and the new world order began to emerge, we sought to cooperate to be a part of this world and this order. We cautioned against the marginalization of our region as the world concentrated on developments in Europe. The Middle East must receive its share of the world's attention and assistance to resolve its problems, or the region will become a hotbed of extremism born of despair. A most important aspect which affects our relations in its public perceptions, and I would offer Jordan as an example, since public opinion can be easily monitored in this country, where democracy ensures every citizen's freedom of expression. In the period leading to the Gulf crisis, the public was constantly wounded by the lack of understanding and demonization of Arabs, their culture, and their causes which manifested itself in the world.

It has always been believed that friendship has to be reciprocated, it cannot be one-sided, nor can it flourish if one side constantly holds the other in public scorn and denies the Arabs their right to equally achieve their fullest potential in all areas of knowledge and development, as with any other people in the world. When the crisis broke out, the public was unanimous in asking for Iraq's withdrawal. However, this feeling was eclipsed once the foreign forces landed in Saudi Arabia. Political forces of secular nationalism and religious conservatism were united for the first time in their opposition to this presence. In the former group, it invoked memories of colonial domination, while the latter saw it as a desecration of the holy places.

These facts highlight the dangerous consequences of an armed explosion, which would persist and spread far beyond the immediate scope of the battles in the field. They also highlight the necessity for a substantial Arab input in the diplomatic solution, because irrespective of the justice of the solution, there must not be room to misrepresent it as a resolution imposed from outside the area. Many would seek to create this misconception in order to detract from the legitimacy of the solution. An objective, neutral Arab involvement must be an integral part of a United Nations solution to the problem.

As regards all countries and peoples in the region, every encouragement must be given to their governments to ensure their orderly and rapid transformation into democracies recognized as such by any acceptable yardstick in this world, where citizens enjoy equal rights and where human rights are recognized, enjoyed, and respected. Finally, we believe that this crisis has highlighted the need for a new approach to relations with this region. It underscores the need for interregional and intraregional dialogue through which all countries of the region can pool their resources and combine their efforts in facing the challenges of progress and building a brighter, stable future.

These are the dimensions of the crisis in this region and the obvious essentials for the solution from our perspective. In the short run, it might indeed have been more beneficial to Jordan and to myself if we had been of the kind that sought immediate benefits rather than taking the high road of facing up to the challenge that requires us to struggle for real solutions to a real crisis. We chose, as always, not to forsake our national and regional duties, ethics, honor, and principles, which I am sure all will ultimately realize that we have always upheld. Jordan is paying a terrible price for its commitment to honor principles, justice, and peace.

Jordan stands tall and its record speaks for itself. We do not waiver in our belief that truth will finally reach one and all and break through darkness, as does a new dawn. We hope to cooperate with our friends in securing a peaceful resolution of all issues in this region so that all its countries and peoples can live free from the threat of war and combine their efforts in building a better future which is their right. Thank you.

[Greenwald] Your Majesty, this is Patrick Greenwald, CNN Center in Atlanta. I would like to ask you a few questions. I know there's some feedback on the satellite that you can hear.

[Husayn] Right, sir.

[Greenwald] First of all, the Saudis today—can you hear me OK?

[Husayn] I can hear you very well, yes, sir.

[Greenwald] The Saudis today announced the expulsion of 20 diplomats in apparent anger over your support of President Saddam Husayn. Will you respond in kind and could this be another step in what could eventually be the breaking of diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia?

[Husayn] Sir, to begin with as far as I am concerned, right now I have no knowledge of any such Saudi action. I'd be very surprised if it took place and I doubt whether we have 20 diplomats in Saudi Arabia in the first place. So I believe that this is probably a fabricated story. At this moment at least, that is the impression I have.

[Greenwald] Your Majesty, you talk about a negotiated settlement, a peaceful settlement. But as you shuttled around the Middle East in the last 40 or 50 days since the crisis began, where do you stand? What is your assessment? Are we closer to war now or are we closer to what you say is the coveted goal of a negotiated settlement?

[Husayn] I believe that the situation is quite dangerous and quite ominous at this point in time and we seem to all have fallen into traps: Iraq on the one hand through its action; on the other hand, I believe our brethren in the Gulf and Saudi Arabia, in response to the Iraqi action and possibly to attempts over a period of time to describe and picture Iraq as a danger to the area and its neighbors; the United States and the rest of the world perceiving a situation that they could not understand or did not follow adequately prior to the Iraqi action. And, unfortunately, as far as the Arab world is concerned, our biggest problem is one of trying to convey to the world that we have no difference between our position and that of any other Arab state regarding the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. We do not recognize what has happened as the way to expand territory, nor do we accept in any form or way the demographic changes and the annexation of Kuwait. We still recognize the Government of Kuwait and the State of Kuwait. So, this is not the problem. The problem is that a number of us in the Arab world felt that we could and should do something within the context of the Arab family to resolve this problem ourselves and as rapidly as possible and to avert the deterioration that followed and the escalation. Others quickly chose otherwise, and this is the difference. There is no difference on principles, there is no difference on what the solution should be. And in any event, we have been trying despite obstacles and difficulties and we'll continue to do so in the hope that we can contribute an Arab input, a meaningful Arab input, to resolve this problem to the satisfaction of all.

[Greenwald] Your Majesty, is there anything that makes you more sanguine in your discussions with Iraqi leaders and particularly Saddam Husayn that would make him more amenable to a negotiated settlement? As you well know, you're talking about the sovereignty of Kuwait. Obviously, that is something that President Bush has been emphatic about; that before there can be a negotiated settlement, or any kind of settlement, that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait. Is there anything that you have seen in recent days, weeks that makes you feel that Saddam Husayn may be softening his position on that particular issue?

[Husayn] The Iraqi president at the outset was very, very clear in his addressing his Arab colleagues. Do not follow the path of condemnation and attempts at intimidation and we will withdraw from Kuwait. And at the same time, that was my belief. And that it was reachable, doable, and possible within the first few days. And he did make it quite clear that otherwise, we might reach the point of, through escalation, of suggesting that Kuwait is a part of Iraq. Now, this has happened. But I still believe that there is every hope that in response to what is in the interest of all in the region, we can find a solution to the problem that will again meet with what all of us believe in, in terms of upholding the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and causing any changes regarding the states that are members of the Arab League and certainly the United Nations. And we hope also that the problems of the borders that have never been defined will finally be defined to the satisfaction of all. That is what should have happened. But unfortunately, it didn't and here is where we are as a result.

[Greenwald] Your Majesty, this is a sort of a novel approach of diplomacy, if you will, certainly going live here on CNN and speaking directly to the American people and members of the Congress. Does this somehow mean that perhaps there is a rift between you and the Bush Administration, not only about your position, which you are very unequivocal about Jordan's position, but also in terms of how the United States is looking at the crisis in the Persian Gulf?

[Husayn] No sir, it doesn't mean that there is a rift. There is a very, a very old friendship that binds me with the President I have had the privilege of knowing over many, many years. But, there is on the other hand the duty to the President, and to the administration, to the Government of the United States, the people of the United States, and others in the world. And this message may be inspired by this very kind letter that I received. For me to have written it at this period of time, I felt very, very strongly that we were moving thinking that we knew what we are doing. And in most cases, we were reacting and acting and the situation was reaching a point of real crisis. And when I visited the United States, at least I was reassured that the American position was a defensive one of Saudi Arabia in accordance with Saudi request in that regard. And since I knew that the Iraqi position was not one of proposing any further moves on the field, at least I felt reassured that we had a chance. And I've been trying ever since to see what could be done to resolve the problem. But all the facts, I felt at least, should be summarized before not only our American friends but all who are interested in peace and harmony and justice and a better future for the world as a whole and this region in particular. That I felt a duty towards them to tell the truth, as I see it at least.

[Greenwald] Your Majesty, let me ask you a very personal question, if I may. Obviously, there is all kinds of political and diplomatic [word indistinct] going on in the Middle East, trying to resolve this. But on a very personal level, what is your gut feeling about how this is going to be resolved and when?

[Husayn] My gut feeling about how it is going to be resolved is: I am worried. I am really concerned, because by miscalculation, by design, any quarter could ignite the situation and the results would be devastating for the region, for the world for a very long time to come. But, on the other hand, good sense and judgment and a genuine desire to avert such a disaster and contribute towards it is a feeling that I have and many have in this area and I am sure in the world and in the United States.

And I hope that this is the feeling that will finally cause us to look upon this phase and say that: Thank God, we succeeded in achieving our objectives, not for ourselves, but for people and for their future and contributed towards the cause of a better world and a peaceful one at that. And maybe what has happened at such a point would be regarded as a turning point for the better in terms of dealing with the many problems that this area suffered from over such a long period of time and which needed attention.

[Greenwald] Okay, Your Majesty King Husayn, talking to us live from the palace in Amman, Jordan. Thank you very much. And you will have some congressional reaction to the comments by King Husayn coming up when the CNN special report returns right after this.

[Husayn] Thank you, sir.

Prince Hasan Talks With Arab Americans

JN2309210890 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1917 GMT 23 Sep 90

["Full recording" of Crown Prince Hasan's "discussion" from Amman via satellite with Arab-Americans in Los Angeles, California, on 23 September, including questions from the audience read by unidentified presenter]

[Text] [Presenter] Historic Jordan—the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan—has enjoyed long and friendly ties with the United States, her King, His Majesty Husayn I, happens to be the world's longest reigning monarch. He's known and dealt with no fewer than eight U.S. presidents. In welcoming the king's brother to this event, we acknowledge and we applaud those many years of friendship and cooperation. Your Royal Highness: As you speak to us now live from Jordan, we think of your lovely country, and the magnificent history that lies within its borders. From the bustling capital of Amman, [words indistinct] leap up at us who have enjoyed the privilege of travelling in Jordan. I think of places like Jerash, Madaba, Petra, Wadi Rum, and al-'Aqabah—only to mention a few. You, Sir, have worked tirelessly on behalf of the Kingdom, and Jordan's accomplishments are recognized throughout the world. We eagerly look forward in this time of crisis to what you will tell us. Ladies and gentlemen: It is a great privilege and distinct honor for me to present to you now the crown prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Royal Highness Hasan Bin-Talal. [applause]

[Hasan] Ladies and gentlemen: Having listened to the speeches earlier this evening, and I would like to emphasize listened because although you can see me, I can only hear you, I would like to say that short of being with you this evening, or this morning as it is in Amman, I felt it imperative to communicate with you our shared hopes and fears at this moment of continuing crisis. But before I start, may I also add my congratulations to you, and possibly from a position of responsibility may I share with you, President Philips [president of the National Association of Arab-Americans], my commiserations, for responsibility is a lonely road indeed, not least of all at this time of difficulty in our Arabic-speaking world. We appreciate the perspective of those who look at the region from beyond the region. We recognize, however, that it is our task—yours and ours jointly—to try and develop an understanding of the perceptions and the aspirations of peoples in this region who are, after all, most likely to be affected by the major upheavals of the coming decade.

I say that with reference to the remarks I heard earlier with emphasis on the end of the cold war, the moves toward the new world order, to remind, my friends, that the Middle East was marginal to international developments for quite some period of time. In fact, earlier this year, one could possibly have looked at the intifadah, at developments in the Lebanon, and wondered why this neglect of continuing human suffering. One friend told me possibly you are not important enough on an international scale, and I recall how deeply this hurt me. And I asked: Are we going to become important posthumously? Today, as we look at the crisis in the Middle East, we ask ourselves the questions: Is it too late to prevent another major war? Is the pace of events accelerating in what we have lived over the last six weeks into an inevitability of a Greek tragedy playing itself out before our very eyes? Are the opposing parties so dug in, so entrenched, so locked in their positions that a peaceful solution is no longer possible? It is the sad conclusion of those who live in the area and who will be the innocent victims of such a conflagration that the answer is probably yes, and it is part of their, of our despair, that we are helpless to do anything about it.

I asked myself and I asked my friends Arab-Americans: Is this perception too gloomy? Since the inception of international legitimacy, this country which has enjoyed its sovereignty and its independence since the end of World War II has lived through successive convulsions in the Middle East. We have lived war in the aftermath of war, and indeed I recall ending my studies in 1967 and returning to this country to build refugee camps. Twenty-three years later, the occupation of Palestinian territories continues. The camps still exist, and indeed, if anything, the dangers of demographic movement are still very much alive from and to one or the other of the states of the region. Solutions are being sought not between sovereign states but at the expense of state sovereignty and indeed of the regional order. All those years ago, His Majesty King Husayn strove as one of the architects of the United Nations resolution, Security Council Resolution 242, to emphasize the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war as it applied to Jerusalem, to the Palestinian territories. We have striven for many, many years for a peacefully negotiated political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We have fallen foul of many of our critics, including some of our Arab brethren, for this stance. And yet it was the difficult road, the road of the principle that the territories of others cannot be taken by force.

And today, despite our obvious feelings as Arabs for the feelings of other Arabs, whether in the Gulf region, or in Iraq, or in Palestine, or in Lebanon, we feel effectively that this region is once again the crucible and the potential victim of extended conflict.

We have made it very clear indeed that the occupation and the annexation of a small sovereign state by a medium-size state is unacceptable. We have called for the end of the annexation of Kuwait. We continue to recognize the political structure of the State of Kuwait, and yet at the same time, I have to share with you our deep concern over the second phase of the crisis, although in the first 72 hours we had committed ourselves on behalf of others in the Arab world to seek a political settlement based on what was then referred to as the Arab solution, that is to say before the arrival of international forces and the rapid internationalizing of the conflict in the region. We had striven for that solution on the basis of upholding Arab integrity, and indeed solving our inter-Arab problems rather along the lines of our previous experiences in inter-regional conflicts in this region. And I would like to remind you that it was Jordan who sent forces in 1961 to Kuwait to interpose between the potential belligerents, and it was the same Jordan that offered forces in the early days of this crisis to interpose again between the potential belligerents, particularly if they are fellow Arabs. However, the pace of events, international resolutions condemning the invasion of Kuwait, the arrival of international forces clearly called for by a sovereign state, Saudi Arabia, and well understood within that context, complicated the wider picture.

As I said yesterday, as we look forward to the month of Ramadan, as we look forward to the Hajj, we wonder if this deadlock is to continue, how this massive international presence can be explained on Arab soil. If, however, the situation in the region is to move into one of conflict and war, placing Arab against Arab, and Muslim against Muslim, we wonder again how this region can lift up its head and preserve its integrity and its regional harmony and join the world order as a civilizing influence rather than a region torn by ethnic and ideological mosaics of Lebanonization. As we look at the people who are, after all, what matter in this equation, as we look at 300 million people between Cairo and Islamabad by the end of this decade, let me remind you that 70 percent of them will be under the age of 15. Let me remind you that hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of unemployed young desperate and disillusioned people will be the fodder for continuing confrontation and continuing militancy. This is our fear and this is what has promoted our search for a political settlement within the context of international legitimacy, within the context of Paragragh three of UN Security Council resolution [not further identified] which calls upon Iraq and Kuwait to begin immediately intensive negotiations for the resolutions of their differences and supports all efforts in this regard, and specially those of the League of Arab States.

If there is to be an Arab contribution to peace, it is through moral pressure on our brethren to end the annexation of Kuwait. It is through moral pressure on the international community to provide the environment for a final negotiated settlement of outstanding differences, for clearly the Kuwait-Iraq crisis did not take place in a vacuum and cannot be addressed in a vacuum, and if the Middle East is topical today, I would like to say in the words of his majesty the king that any solution must address, if not simultaneously, at least sequentially the major underlying causes; namely, the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait, the imbalance of wealth in the area, the unresolved confrontation between Israel, Palestine, and the Arab states, and here I would like to say that I am not diluting the current issue.

What I am searching for is at least a parallel acceptance of the principle involved, the principle of nonacquisition of territory by war and the end of annexation, and lastly, we have to address the perilous escalation and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, regardless of who owns them.

This squaring of the circle, this comprehensive search for making the Middle East a worthy partner to the international order is surely a task worthy of us all, Arabs and Americans. And lastly, may I say that this country has not taken the onerous task of doing good things in bad times without a heavy toll imposed upon it. I speak here of our adherence to UN Resolution 661 which directly sanctions the aggressor but effectively has the greatest impact on the neighboring economy of Jordan which is organically linked and tied to Kuwait, Iraq, and indeed to Saudi Arabia, our three major trading partners. The effect of sanctions has meant wiping out two-thirds of our GDP. If OECD countries have suffered one percent of their GNP, we are talking 50 percent of GNP. And this is what leads me to visit New York and Washington in the days ahead to make it clear that Jordan has stood firmly on principle and does not deserve this rough treatment, particularly from old and traditional friends. We hope that as his majesty said in his address yesterday that Jordan will not be punished for seeking to speak truth to power. However, I would like to make it clear that the Jordanian people are suffering. Our borders are open to evacuees of many nationalities the world over who represent the equivalent of 15 percent of our population, and it is in that tradition of Arab hospitality that we continue to try to facilitate their onward pasage home. I hope that it is understood that if this hardship is self-inflicted, if the economic difficulties that Jordan faces are the result of standing on principle, that this is something that the Jordanian people will gladly continue to do. However, I hope that we can contribute effectively to the role that has been known of this country, the role of moderation, of centrism and building a better future, and no price can be too high in the service of this noble cause.

At this stage, ladies and gentlemen, I think I should probably give you the opportunity to share with me your concerns and your advice. I can only pray to God almighty that we can meet soon face to face in happier times, Inshallah, and thank you once again for your hospitality, your patience, and your generosity. [applause]

[Presenter] Your Royal Highness, thank you very, very much for that thoughtful, substantive, and statesmanlike address.

[Hasan] Thank you, sir.

[Presenter] We are most grateful for you to be with us here in Los Angeles. We think you are right here, actually, although it's half a world away.

[Hasan] Well, I am with you in spirit and heart, I assure you.

[Presenter] Thank you. [Words indistinct] you said before you couldn't see our audience. We have about 500 people here, and just before our dinner, we had cards on the table on which we asked the people to ask some questions of you. I have some of them, and with your permission I would like to start asking the questions from our audience.

[Hasan] They are welcome.

[Presenter] First of all, the question is—and I read it just as written—now that Saudi Arabia has expelled Jordanian diplomats as co-conspirators, how will Jordan maintain its claim to neutrality?

[Hasan] I believe that I am speaking to an Arab-American audience, and I think that you know that inter-Arab differences, unfortunately, are the bane of all our existence. And although many of us are accused of falsifying the search for Arab unity, because, effectively, the differences do exist, we still firmly believe that relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia will emerge after this crisis stronger and more respectful than at any time in the past. I would just like to refer to that falsification to say that the incident to which you refer is the reduction of our embassy presence in Saudi Arabia. Speculation also has grown rife although the cutting of oil and the TAPLINE, which is largely a TAPLINE issue, possibly overshadowed by some of the suspicions that have grown up during the last few weeks between people. And here I would like to refer to the fact that although I have outlined the official policy of Jordan, Jordan does live a democratic process, where there has been extensive criticism in our press and in our street, and unfortunately that criticism has gone beyond the bounds of diplomatic exchanges; indeed, has been directly scathing in criticizing Saudi Arabia and personalizing that criticism. I personally regret this fact as indeed do so many of us officially in Jordan. Indeed, the whole Jordanian establishment has never condoned this form of exchange between Arab countries, and looks back on the fifties and the sixties and remembers how devastating the effects of wounds created by newspaper attacks and media attacks have been on our inter-Arab psyche. There have been suspicions generated by recent events, accusations which are outrageous and untrue of Jordan's territorial ambitions and, indeed, references to the territorial ambitions of others, as if we were sitting back to redraw the map of the region. I think that such rumors have to be condemned for what they are—disinformation of the worst kind.

Jordan is a country which is caught geopolitically between neighbors not of its choosing, a country which faces a major influx of hundreds of thousands of new migrants to Palestine every month, a country which does not possess weapons of mass destruction or delivery systems, and in terms of objectivity that very geopolitical situation of defending the heartland of Arabia is a role which is recognized and indeed supported, gratefully, by our Arab brethren, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over many many years. I hope that differences between our people will not be taken into the international arena and exploited by those who wish us ill. And I hope that Arab-Americans, regardless of their persuasion or their affiliation in this conflict, and I assume for purposes of those three titles that we heard earlier this evening of discipline, tolerance, and respect, that at this level we can promote through those values steps aimed at bringing Arabs closer together, rather than allowing the old colonial adage of divide and rule, or divide and quit, to tear us further apart.

[Presenter] Thank you, sir. Next question: King Husayn's mediation efforts seem to be going nowhere. Are the Iraqi and American positions as rigid in private as they are in public?

[Hasan] As you know in the process of seeking a political settlement, you only arrive when you arrive. And I think there has been too much summitry. We have had the continuing summit as I said yesterday in an interview on CNN over the airwaves. It has been almost a continuing airborne summit, and every time a positive statement comes out of either Western capitals or of Baghdad, few and far between as they may be, these statements are quickly dismissed by one adversary or the other. And I would like to make it clear that the hub of the problem is, clearly, the subject of withdrawal of forces. If withdrawal is to take place from Kuwait—I am not playing with words or advocating reciprocity—but I am talking rationally, and saying that the continued presence of forces cannot be logically justified, south of Kuwait. If United Nations resoutions are to be implemented then, clearly, there can be no justification for continued hostility and conflict, and this is why the negotiating effort is so difficult. Each party seeks to achieve its ultimate goal. The goal of rolling back annexation is vital to so many in the world today who fear that this may be a pattern, not least of all—possibly in Europe itself—the vulnerability of smaller states is well-known through history.

Yet on the other side, as I have said, a situation that has arisen of annexation by one state of another did not arise in a vacuum, and cannot be settled in a vacuum, and therefore my reference to Security Council resolutions that call in tandem—in conjunction—for a withdrawal of forces, and yet stipulate clearly the importance of a lasting inter-Arab settlement. Why is it that our region cannot be developed on the basis of a conflict-free zone, in fact if not in name, particularly in the Gulf, which is so vitally important today with the barrel of oil paradoxically at $35 and more. What a contradiction! A glut on the international market and yet a soaring price of oil. Does this presage the possibility of hostilities in the weeks ahead? The signs are ominous, and yet we continue.

His majesty was in Morocco only a few days ago, and our contacts continue with Arab leaders and between Arab leaders. And I think the less is said at this moment probably the better, not because I am hiding the possibilities of breakdown or breakthrough—both clearly exist from the beginning of this crisis—but because one hopes in that lull, and possibly the lull before the storm which we have striven to prevent, that reason may prevail and that withdrawals of troops in a context of peace and of building a stable future for this region is not the stuff fairy tales are made of, but a fairy tale come true in our region that will continue to produce crises decade after decade unless statesmanship can be applied and I think, God knows, with the amount of international concern for this vital region, there can be no time more important than this opportunity to establish the principles of peace and justice in the Middle East region.

[Presenter] Thank you, sir.

[Hasan] Thank you.

[Presenter] Because, ladies and gentlemen, and Your Royal Highness, we will lose the satellite transmission in just a few minutes, this will have to be the last question. Your Royal Highness, did the United States move too fast in asserting leadership in this situation, and by doing so, does it appear that it is the United States ready for war with mercenary states and countries being, as the question arises, being paid off to join in?

[Hasan] I think that there has been a lot made out of the credibility of a superpower in which we believe that credibility should be in our view built not only on the buildup of force, but the use of force as diplomacy through other means, and we feel that this massive presence stresses the point very clearly that aggression does not pay. I hope that that principle can be recognized, and I am not talking about simultaneous timing, of rolling back situations of occupation. But I am hoping that this presence can emphasize the importance of resolving the intractable or seemingly intractable problems of the region. As far as bankrolling armies, we notice that in short sessions billions of dollars have been set aside for military current expenditure. I wonder as we look at this Arab and Muslim world where 10 or 12 of the regional conflicts of the world where over 70 percent of the refugees of the world—the downtrodden of the earth—continue to eke out an existence, I wonder whether funding of the military effort is going to achieve the goal of peace and stability. If we are seeking to build deterrents, then let us build it in that old American adage, in people's hearts and minds, and not continue to use the big stick in effecting the role of the policeman which is seen in this part of the world, but in rather gently and firmly nudging the whole region towards peace, honor, and stability. This is the role truly of a credible superpower. I thank you, my friends, one and all.

[Presenter] Thank you, very much, your.... [interrupted by applause] Your Royal Highness, I would like to present to you once again the newly elected Mr. Gary Philips to bid farewell and thank you.

[Hasan] Thank you.

Energy Minister Announces Cutoff of Saudi Oil

JN2109210390 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2016 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Thabit al-Tahir has announced that the [Saudi-owned] TAPLINE [Trans-Arabian Petroleum Line] Company halted the pumping of oil to the oil refinery as of midnight 19 September. In a statement to PETRA, the minister said the Jordanian Government had received a letter from TAPLINE in which the firm demanded that the government make a payment of $46 million: $40 million for crude oil delivered to Jordan in the second half 1985; and $6 million for crude oil supplied to Jordan in June 1990. The minister added that the company set 19 September as a deadline for the repayment of this sum.

The government sent a response to the company informing it that, regarding the $40 million, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, had ordered that Jordan be forgiven this sum. As for the $6 million, the minister of finance had been instructed to transfer it to TAPLINE immediately. The minister of energy and mineral resources said that on 19 September, 1990, at around 1800, the government received a letter from the TAPLINE company advising that, in view of the failure of the Jordanian Government to pay the full sum it owed as of this date, the company regrets to inform the Jordanian Government that it has decided to cease the pumping of oil through the TAPLINE as of the middle of that night, that is only six hours from the receipt of its letter, when, actually, the oil pumping was halted.

The minister said that the government had paid all the direct and indirect costs and expenses incurred by TAPLINE to operate the pipeline for the purpose of supplying Jordan with crude oil. Toward that end, the government has, since 1984, paid around $120 million. The minister said cutting off oil in this fashion constitutes a violation of the existing agreement between the government and TAPLINE, since the agreement stipulates that in the event of a lag in the payment, interest will be computed at rates set by the agreement. He added that agreement had been reached with TAPLINE that it supply Jordan during the current month of September with 1 million barrels of crude oil at the rate of approximately 35,000 barrels per day.

House Calls for Arab Meeting To Solve Crisis

JN2309160790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] In a statement issued after its meeting under House Speaker Sulayman 'Arar today, the House's emergency committee called on Arab countries, especially those that rejected foreign intervention in the Gulf, to hold a conference to confront the occupation of our lands and sacred places and adopt an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis away from foreign interference. The statement urged Arab parliaments to respond favorably to the call for an urgent extraordinary meeting for the Arab Parliamentary Union. It appealed to official and popular Arab and Islamic figures to muster their energies to counter the danger of occupation of the Gulf.

The statement said that the Jordanian House of Representatives draws attention to the relationship between the developments of the Gulf on one hand and the Palestine question, Jewish immigration, and Israeli occupation of the lands of Palestine, Golan, and Lebanon on the other. This is a close relationship that cannot be concealed by the masks of Israeli policy, the statement added.

Moroccan Proposal on Arab League Session Accepted

JN2409084290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Jordan has informed the Arab League Secretariat of its approval of the Kingdom of Morocco's proposal to convene the 94th session of the Arab League Council in Tunis next Thursday, 27 September.

In a memorandum delivered to the Arab League Secretariat today by Jordan's permanent envoy to the Arab League, Jordan said it approves the Moroccan proposal that all Arab states attend the Arab League Council's session on 27 September. This session will be held at the level of the permanent representatives of the member states and will be limited to an opening session. The session will then be adjourned but will remain open so that the Arab foreign ministers can negotiate among themselves regarding their participation in the UN General Assembly meetings in New York, and prepare for a first session of the Arab League Council under appropriate circumstances to be agreed on beforehand.

Arab League sources mentioned that four other Arab countries, together with Jordan, had agreed to the Moroccan proposals up to this evening; these are Iraq, Republic of Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

New Constitution Law Heralds 'Second Republic'

NC2109150390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Congratulations on the birth of the second republic and farewell to the al-Ta'if contest now that Lebanon has entered the era of the new republic in light of the constitutional amendments which have become a valid law or a new constitution after having been signed and published by President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

The president of the republic signed constitutional law number 18 issued on 21 September at noon today in the presence of Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, and Information Minister Edmund Rizq.

After delivering his message and signing the law, President al-Hirawi addressed his two ruling partners, al-Husayni and al-Huss saying: Congratulations on the birth of the second republic.

Although the constitutional and political features of the new republic have been defined, its natural features are still the subject of consultations because of the B'abda and al-Yarzah problems. What remains to be done to complete the chain of the republic is the takeover of the legitimate positions and the removal of the internal crossing points. We will then say: Congratulations to Lebanon and the Lebanese, and to legitimacy with all that goes with it, and to the one Lebanese army.

In his message to the Lebanese, President al-Hirawi said: The constitutional achievement makes it incumbent upon me to remove all obstacles for rebuilding a modern and responsible state. Anyone responding to the 11 July peace initiative will actually be responding to Lebanon, and anyone opposing it will subject himself to the enmity of Lebanon. Those who are forthcoming will make progress, and those who hesitate will lag behind.

President al-Hirawi added: We are heading toward the formation of an all-embracing government which will end the state of war, disband the militias, impose the state's authority and the supremacy of law throughout Lebanon, deal with the deteriorating economic situation, establish firm foundations for good fraternal relations with fraternal Syria, and forge a new era of openness, solidarity, and stability.

President al-Hirawi added: In loyalty to my oath and faithful to the unity of Lebanon, I sign today in your name the constitutional amendments law to start together the march toward ending the war and disbanding the militias; returning to the state all ports and utilities; restoring the homeland; returning the citizen to his factory, shop, and field; returning the student to his school and university; and returning the evacuee and emigrant who were forced to leave because of the fighting, destruction, or need.

Al-Hirawi stressed that he will not be a witness to the loss of Lebanon. He emphasized that the march of legitimacy will not stop and will not wait for long.

Addressing the military, President al-Hirawi said: You have three options. The army will either remain divided between legitimate and mutinous units, the army units will fight each other, or you will join each other. Al-Hirawi added: Except for the third option, you will task me with making the difficult decision of resorting to an unavoidable surgical operation.

Al-Huss Lauds Reform Law

NC2209084390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss regards the signing of the constitutional reforms law as an important turning point in Lebanon's history. In a statement yesterday, he said: We hope that this move will be the beginning of the end of the Lebanese ordeal and will herald Lebanon's entry into a new era of stability and development. He said that the importance of this occasion stems from the fact that it marks the start of a new era characterized by the exercise of democratic political life responding to the aspirations of the Lebanese people and their needs for systematic and continuous development.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: We hope on this occasion that everyone will regain their national conscience and unite to rescue Lebanon from the affliction which tore it apart. The first priority, which must receive the utmost attention, is the need to achieve the aspirations of every Lebanese. These are the reunification of the state institutions, foremost the Lebanese Army; the removal of the contact lines; and the operation of the state institutions under one capable and just legitimate authority.

'Awn Says Amendments 'Contestable'

NC2209070890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] In response to the signing of the constitutional amendments law by the president of the republic, former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn has described it as contestable. He added that the amendments are merely ideas being circulated until parliamentary elections are held soon.

[(Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon at 0530 GMT on 22 September quotes Gen. 'Awn as follows: "The amendments and call to hold parliamentary elections soon are merely ideas being circulated."]

Regarding reports of a military operation soon, 'Awn expressed his satisfaction at the deployment of some army units along the fronts. He said: We are waiting for a reunion under joint units, a reunion that will take place very soon. He ruled out the possibility of a military escalation and said that the coming era would be one of anticipation and a freeze followed by a solution.

In response to a question on his intention to establish a new party called the al-Wa'd [Promise], 'Awn said: Some of the supporting political groups are trying to set up a national group, but for now, I am not planning to establish a political party.

In a related issue, the Central Bureau for National Coordination [pro-'Awn group] will hold a political rally at the Mallat Center in al-Hazimiyah at 1100 today. Various political and spiritual figures and parties from the eastern area are invited to take part. According to reports from East Beirut, during the rally the bureau could announce the formation of a new political party whose principles will be determined in light of the speeches to be delivered on the occasion.

British Negotiate With Fadlallah on Hostages

NC2409110090 Paris AFP in English 1044 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Beirut, Sept 24 (AFP)—Britain is negotiating with a senior pro-Iranian religious figure on the three British hostages in Lebanon, who could all be released soon, a Lebanese source close to Tehran said here Monday.

The source said the release of the Britons was being negotiated by the British ambassador here, David Tatham, and the spiritual leader of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Shiite fundamentalists, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah.

He said freedom for the hostages would herald the restoration of diplomatic ties between Iran and Britain as the two sides, represented by Shaykh Fadlallah and Mr. Tatham, were also close to an agreement on the Salman Rushdie affair.

The British ambassador held a first round of talks with Shaykh Fadlallah on September 12 and the two men are to meet again "very soon," the source told Agence France-Presse.

This meeting could begin "the countdown" to the release of the Britons—Terry Waite, 51, the archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy kidnapped in January 1987, John McCarthy, a 33-year old cameraman who disappeared in April 1986 and Jack Mann, a 75-year old former pilot abducted in May 1989.

All three are believed to be held by pro-Iranian Shiite fundamentalist groups, but only Mr. Mann's kidnapping has been claimed—by a group calling itself the Cells of the Armed Struggle.

Shaykh Fadlallah's office has denied that the hostage issue was brought up at the September 12 meeting.

The Foreign Office in London said after the talks that the meeting was part of regular contacts with political and religious leaders in Lebanon.

But it added that Mr. Tatham wanted to "ask them to do everything possible to secure the release of all hostages, not only British hostages."

(In London Monday, the Foreign Office again confirmed the September 12 meeting but would not comment on a possible release.

("The whole question of the hostages by its very nature is sensitive. The position of the U.K. government remains unchanged— that is, we do not do deals," a Foreign Office spokesman said.)

The Lebanese source said the Shiite leader had been "mandated by Iran" to negotiate with Britain on the hostages and that their release would be "the prelude" to a restoration of diplomatic ties between London and Tehran.

He said Iran was now ready to lift the death sentence against the British author Mr. Rushdie while the European Economic Community was studying "the most suitable formula for an apology" to deliver to the Muslim world.

Ties between Iran and Britain were severed after late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni sentenced Mr. Rushdie to death in February 1989 over his book "The Satanic Verses," which many Muslims consider blasphemous.

The source said Shaykh Fadlallah and Mr. Tatham discussed the normalisation of relations and that Britain demanded the release of the Britons and the lifting of Mr. Rushdie's death sentence as conditions for such a move.

Iran wants to secure the release of the hostages, as part of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policy to open up to the West, but wants Mr. Rushdie's work to be denounced by Britain and the rest of the EEC, he said.

The same Lebanese source had told AFP on September 3 that preparations were underway for the release of at least one of the three Britons, with Mr. Waite the most likely candidate.

Brian Keenan, an Irish-British hostage released last month, said he was held with Mr. Waite and Mr. McCarthy and both were still alive. But he said the church envoy had been ill.

The Lebanese source said Iran wanted to separate the issue of the British hostages and Mr. Rushdie from that of the six Americans still held captive in Lebanon.

Tehran has repeatedly denounced Washington for failing to make reciprocal gestures after the release of two Americans—Robert Polhill and Frank Reed—in April.

A total of 12 Westerners are believed held in Lebanon. Four Belgians are also being held hostage, either in Lebanon or Libya, by a radical Palestinian group.

Waite's Release 'Soon'

NC2309210090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] A prominent Shiite man of religion in Lebanon declared today that British hostage Terry Waite, envoy of the Anglican Church who has been held by a Shiite group in Beirut for four years, will be released soon. The Shiite official attributed this decision to Iran's desire to imrprove its image before the international community, especially under the present conditions in the Gulf region.

Belgian Hostages 'In Good Health'

NC2309121590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC], led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], have affirmed that the hostages from the Belgian yacht Silco are in good health. In a statement distributed in Beirut, the FRC explained that Walid Khalid, the person responsible for the Silco yacht affair, has met with the Belgian charge d'affaires in Lebanon and reassured him about the hostages' health in the wake of the recent fighting in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp.

New Group Threatens Western Troops in Gulf

NC2409145390 Paris AFP in English 1437 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Beirut, Sept 24 (AFP)—A previously unknown Lebanese group threatened Monday to attack Western troops deployed in Saudi Arabia unless they were withdrawn immediately.

The "Green Formation in Lebanon," in a text delivered to an international news agency in mainly Muslim West Beirut, urged Western countries "to allow the Arabs to settle the Gulf crisis," in line with a Libyan initiative.

"We warn Western countries with troops on sacred Arab territories against any interference in the affairs of the Arab nation," said the handwritten communique in Arabic.

"We have a long reach and can hit U.S. interests and those of their allies deployed on Arab land, notably in the Hejaz (western Saudi Arabia), if they do not act on our communique," the group said.

In a September 1 plan aimed at resolving the Gulf crisis, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi called for U.N. forces to replace Iraqi troops in occupied Kuwait and for Arab and Muslim forces to take the place of Western troops.

A group calling itself the Islamic Martyrs warned Saturday in Amman that it would also strike the Western troops in Saudi Arabia unless they were pulled out within three days.

Incidents of Shelling, Fighting Reported

'Awn Forces Shell East Areas

NC2209193990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] 'Awn units' attacks on Lebanese Forces positions in the Olivetti area grew violent between 2115 and 2140 today. They bombarded these positions with heavy artillery, rockets, and machine guns. The attacks eased later, but sporadic firing continues. 'Awn's units opened artillery and sniper fire at the residential areas surrounding the Olivetti and Museum areas at approximately 2110. The Lebanese Forces' positions in al-Nab'ah came under machine gun fire at 2015.

Four Said Killed by 'Awn Men

NC2309081890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Four persons fell victim yesterday to 'Awn's gunmen, who deliberately shot and killed four detainees. 'Awn's radio claimed, however, that a vehicle belonging to the internal security forces and used for transporting prisoners was ambushed yesterday afternoon in the quarry area along the road to Rumiyah. The radio said the four prisoners inside the vehicle were killed. The radio did not mention the victims' names nor injuries among 'Awn's gunmen.

Sources believe that the incident was a premeditated crime which 'Awn's group tried to cover up. [passage omitted]

In an obvious attempt to cover up the crime, 'Awn's combat teams deployed in the quarry area during the massacre and erected a number of roadblocks.

REUTER cites security sources as saying that the four victims, all soldiers, had been involved in a number of explosions in the 'Awn-controlled area. The agency notes that three policemen were killed and two others wounded in the incident.

Two Die in Southern Suburb

NC2309083790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Two people were killed and a number of others wounded when an explosive charge went off near the al-Siba'i restaurant in Burj al-Barajinah. The Amal Movement and Hizballah, which accused each other of perpetrating the incident, mobilized armed men and established roadblocks following the explosion.

According to reports from Iqlim al-Tuffah, the situation between the movement and Hizballah remained tense. The two sides exchanged fire with heavy-caliber weapons. Shells fell in Kafr Milki, 'Ayn Qana, Jarju', and Jba'.

Iqlim Al-Tuffah Clashes

NC2309192790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Violent clashes are raging this evening between positions held by the Amal Movement and those held by Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah, especially on the confrontation lines in Kafr Milki.

Five Dead Reported

NC2309200690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Tension prevails in Iqlim al-Tuffah as Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen continue to trade artillery fire. Fierce clashes occurred earlier between the two parties, leaving five people dead, according to certain sources. Hizballah sources said three Hizballah members were killed.

Night Curfew Imposed

NC2409093490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] The Amal Movement has distributed directives imposing a night curfew in Iqlim al-Tuffah, specifically in the villages of Sarba, Rumin, al-Ma'mariyah, and al-Ghaziyah. The curfew will be in force from 2130 to 0500 daily. The directives warn that violators will be immediately fired upon. It is noteworthy that Amal's new security measures in Iqlim al-Tuffah follow bombings and assassinations of its officials and members.

Lebanese Forces Units Fighting

NC2409111490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces units have been fighting in the township of Nammurah in Kasrawan since yesterday afternoon. Eight people have been killed and 20 others wounded. Heavy-caliber mortars are being used in the fighting, according to the latest security reports.

SSNP Member Assassinated

NC2209155690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] According to reports from al-Biqa', Nadim Shadid, member of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party's [SSNP] Emergency Command, was assassinated yesterday as he was driving his car between (Sib'il) and Qabb Ilyas. The reports said unidentified gunmen shot Shadid with automatic rifles.

'Awn Speech Marks Second Year in Office

NC2309190090 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Message by General Michel 'Awn, chairman of the Council of Ministers, to the Lebanese people on 23 September on the second anniversary of his taking office; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] O Lebanese, our great people in Lebanon and the world: In accordance with national duty and our military oath, we have waited for the past two years to be a bridge for the legitimacy from a state of exhaustion and division in the country to the shore of safety and the natural transfer of authority. Despite the fact that the constitutional government was stillborn and that divisions and obstacles were created because of it, we were quick to call for a free national dialogue that would lead to Lebanese reconciliation in order to unite the Lebanese will in confronting the various internal and external threats and dangers.

To achieve this goal we exhausted all means, but our efforts reached an impasse. We tried to avert the economic collapse and ease the people's living conditions until the appropriate political atmosphere is created for dialogue and reconciliation, and consequently for holding presidential elections.

We eliminated the crossing points and contact lines. We also closed the illegal ports. The national currency revived amid internal popular appreciation and broad international support. We were soon confronted with a harsh war, however, which was described as futile. Our stand in this war was one of self-defense. Even when this war raged furiously, we did not stop calling for a dialogue at home and abroad, particularly at the meetings in Tunis, hoping to push the Lebanese issue toward a solution.

We were the first to warn against losing the homeland as a consolation prize if we do not achieve the required degree of unity in confronting the serious developments and deadlines looming on the Middle East horizon. Current events prove the seriousness and credibility of our warning.

Consequently, we reiterated our sincere call for an urgent attempt at salvation which would transfer Lebanon from the negotiating table to the seats of those negotiating the fate of the region. We were also the first to propose a dialogue on the issue of the state or mini-state. We warned against consolidating the fait accompli mini-states at the expense of a strong state and united entity. We demanded a plebiscite and elections under Arab and international supervision in line with democratic rules and practices and the principle of the right of the people to determine their future.

These are the sound practices and rules for building a new republic on the debris of a declining republic. No constitution or system can survive if it is based on isolating or coercing any faction or group in the society. All world governments, particularly democratic ones, refer to their people when they want to amend or change their constitutions or make national and fateful decisions and options. We have always advocated this and we have always referred to the people out of our faith in the need for a capable and stable state on the basis of a sincere, free, and firm national accord.

As for our Arab approach, we have emphasized Lebanon's sovereignty in its Arab and international relations based on common interests. To realize relations between Lebanon and Syria, we formulated the most candid and clearest equation when we maintained that Lebanon cannot be ruled from Damascus, but at the same time, Lebanon cannot be ruled from Beirut against Damascus. Despite all this, however, we have been confronted with conditions and pressures as if our people were forbidden to have their own views on what is being done for them and as if they were banned from having a say in what is imposed on them. It seems also as if our people and homeland were forbidden to choose a clear course and endorse free domestic and national options, and as if Lebanon were forbidden to establish a sovereign and free decisionmaking state.

Thus, we have also been confronted with another, more bitter, war that was described as the war of abolition. Everyone knows that in that war we were in a position of self-defense, defending the people's rights, supremacy of law, and freedom of the judiciary. Nonetheless, we have succeeded in stopping Lebanese bloodshed and, out of faith in the state's duty to contain all of society's problems, we put an end to a military eruption and repeated our call for resorting to the people, the sole arbiter and party entitled to choose between a state of affairs dominated by chaos and fragmentation or by freedom and law.

We tried to make the area entrusted to the army and internal security forces a model nucleus for the option of a state, where only the legitimate forces enjoy sovereignty and where citizens can be assured of their freedom and safety, protected by law and the judiciary. From this nucleus, we declared an end to the combat lines and assured citizens their freedom and right to move and reside wherever they want, denying anyone the right to ask them about their political or sectarian affiliations or the area they come from.

Consequently, a wave of inter-Lebanese openness prevailed for the first time in 16 years. The response to our open-door policy, however, was a siege, as if what was required was to stifle the people's hopes to unite and restore the life of coexistence and free and safe interaction among the various factions in all Lebanese areas. This siege, coupled with inflated reports by certain parties about decisive military action, greatly contributed to crippling the economic and commercial trade exchange between the Lebanese areas, further exacerbating the economic deterioration and standard of living, and the decline of the exchange rate of the national currency.

In addition, preventing fuel from reaching factories, production sites, and all other establishments further exacerbated the deterioration not only in the besieged area but also in all other areas, because economic activity is an indivisible whole. All of these factors, coupled with the lack of the desired integration between the people and the government—which was not formed by real national agreement—made the required trust and the people's support necessary for economic, political, and security stability disappear. Given the continuing policy of useless waste and overspending, and reports on prevalent deals, bribes, and corruption, capital and productive sectors fled the country and the stifling economic crisis further worsened to the point of catastrophe.

Sympathizing with the citizens' suffering, we submitted an economic initiative. We said that we extend our hands for cooperation to everyone without exception and without expecting any political favors in return. We placed all the economic utilities in our area at the disposal of those concerned hoping to reduce the effects of the catastrophe and ease the people's suffering. We were again faced, however, with a negative stand, rejection, and exaggeration. This is what turned the Lebanese people into a formidable unit in the face of recklessness, indifference, and waste of public funds.

If this is the stand of the people, then the stand of the army, which is of this people and shares their suffering, is one of no less rejection and annoyance with the present situation and of yearning for salvation. Salvation could be achieved only through the establishment of a clean, strong, and just state, however, and not through an attempt to strike the model area where no authority but that of the state prevails. Salvation will come through the imposition of the state's authority on the ports, harbors, and public utilities to control the revenues and collect what is due the treasury. This can be achieved only if the militias are disbanded and the youth are employed in the production, security, and defense institutions. It is only then that the plans of establishing mini-states would collapse and the homeland's unity, health, and effective role in its Arab environment and the world would be restored.

O Lebanese: I will keep my promise. As I have demonstrated to you, I am always ready to make every sacrifice and effort and to cooperate with everyone if it leads to the achivement of a real accord and consequently the establishment of a state which is sovereign on its land and master of its decisions. The unity of the homeland is our goal. The experience of the past long years have proved that this unity can be realized only if the illegitimate guns disappear. Those who have announced such convictions must place their guns at the disposal of the sole legitimate gun. The army's unity is an established fact and is based on common national convictions. The entire army is poised and ready to carry out its role fully on all Lebanese territory when the illegitimate guns disappear. O soldiers in all of Lebanon: Together we have endured very much and for very long to preserve our existence, our establishment, and the dignity of the uniform we wear. They are calling upon you now to punish the only area in which your dream of regaining your role without a partner or substitute and of restoring the dignity, honor, and vigor which befit your establishment has materialized. We will not, however, abandon what has been achieved by the blood of your martyrs. On the contrary, we will seek to build on this achievement to realize the comprehensive popular will. You must either realize in your own environment this dream, which some of your brothers in arms have turned into an established fact, or join them in the model area as comrades in arms and mission among relatives and friends.

O Lebanese in every area, post, and position: You are invited at all levels of responsibility to rise above wounds, rancor, follies, and selfishness to save the homeland, end the plight, and ward off the imminent great dangers. To accomplish this goal—this message—I assure you that my hand is extended to everyone within the framework of the genuine constants of reconciliation to save Lebanon. Long live Lebanon.

Defense Minister, Ja'ja' Discuss Cabinet Moves

NC2309171790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] The Ministerial Committee [consisting of Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul and Defense Minister Albert Mansur] issued the following statement this afternoon:

Within the framework of its efforts and after the meeting held at presidential headquarters chaired by the president of the republic and attended by the prime minister and Ministers Albert Mansur and Muhsin Dallul last Thursday, Minister Dallul visited Damascus to discuss developments with Syrian officials.

Minister Mansur visited Juniyah and met with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' to discuss the measures adopted by the cabinet and the ways to implement them.

Fadlallah Views U.S. 'Plans' for Gulf, Arabs

NC2209184590 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 sep 90

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said America's plans for the Persian Gulf and the Arab countries constitute an intervention in the internal affiars of Muslims and Arabs to seize oil resources and natural wealth.

Our correspondent cites 'Allamah Fadlallah, who delivered the Friday prayers' two sermons in Beirut's Southern Suburb, as saying that, by increasing its military [word indistinct] in the region, America seeks to include this region in its long-term strategy and that Muslims should confront this great danger any way it can.

Finance Minister Leaves for Washington Talks

NC2309131490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Dr. 'Ali al-Khalil today left for Washington to head Lebanon's delegation to the annual meetings of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the IMF to be held from 23 to 28 September. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Governor Departs

NC2109193790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Central Bank governor Dr. Edmond Na'im left Beirut today for Washington where he will join the Lebanese delegation to the IMF meetings. In a statement at the airport, Dr. Na'im said that he will hold talks at the meetings to seek financial assistance for Lebanon. Dr. Na'im noted that Saudi financial assistance to Lebanon has increased bank reserves to $600 million and expressed hope for additional assistance. Dr. Na'im, however, stressed the need for a balanced budget to provide a concrete basis for a stronger Lebanese pound.

Central Bank Reveals Losses

NC2209072790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] At the Cabinet's request, the Central Bank has submitted a detailed statement that the bank lost $480 million in hard currency reserves from the time the current government was formed until the end of last month. The bank added that $370.555 million was lost as a result of speculation on the stock exchange.

Omani Minister, Al-Asad Discuss Gulf Situation

JN1909170490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] At 1000 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Omani Interior Minister Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin-Harib. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and the Omani ambassador in Damascus.

Bin-Harib conveyed to the president the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. The president asked the Omani minister to convey his greetings and best wishes to his majesty the sultan and the fraternal people in Oman. The talks centered on the situation in the Gulf and the region and bilateral relations.

Confers With Khaddam

JN1909110790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] At 1900 today Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Omani Interior Minister Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin-Harib. Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah attended the meeting. The talks centered on the situation in the Gulf area as well as the dangers threatening the region as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Khaddam affirmed that the only way to avert these dangers is to implement the Arab summit resolutions, Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, and the restoration of the legitimate government in Kuwait.

Departs 19 Sep

JN1909170590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Omani Interior Minister Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin-Harib left Damascus this afternoon. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by the interior minister and several Interior Ministry officials.

In a statement to SANA [Syrian Arab News Agency], Bin-Habir said: My visit to Syria was fruitful and successful. It was crowned today by my meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, during which I conveyed to his excellency the greetings of his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. His excellency asked me to convey similar greetings.

The interior minister explained that his meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad dealt with the good bilateral relations, adding that Syrian and Omani viewpoints converged on many positions and issues.

He said that the talks touched on the situation in the region and the need to implement the Arab summit and UN Security Council resolutions with regard to the complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

He described his visit to Syria as a successful and fruitful one, during which he held talks with Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah on cooperation between the Interior Ministries in the two sisterly countries, and means to develop and strengthen it.

Media on Importance of Al-Asad Visit to Iran

Damascus Radio

JN2209143690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad began a state and friendly visit to Iran today to deepen relations of cooperation, solidarity, and brotherhood that have been built over the past 10 years, and to hold talks on a number of issues, the most important being the explosive Gulf crisis.

Syria was first of the Arab states that right from the beginning grasped the positive dimensions of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the need to establish the best relations with it so as to consolidate Islamic solidarity. Hence, Syria's consistent defense of this revolution and its relentless efforts to explain its significance and the support it can potentially extend to the Palestinian cause. Syria never spared itself in trying to dispel whatever apprehensions the Iraqi Government may have had from the Iranian revolution and to dissuade it from embroiling itself in a war that imperialist and Zionist-allied circles had been eager to trigger with the object of excluding Iraq and Iran from the frontline with Israel, and thus draining the resources of the two countries, as well as spreading an atmosphere of tension and mistrust in the entire Gulf region.

If Syrian efforts did not produce the desired result of halting this wrongful war, Syria succeeded in insulating the other Gulf states from the war, and thus narrowed its circle. In pursuing that end, Syria suffered harassment and was the target of defamation. Recent events have demonstrated the salutariness of Syria's nationalist, pan-Arab, and Islamic position, to which it held throughout the Iraq-Iran war. If some of Gulf states have admitted their mistakes against Syria and Iran, the Iraqi Government has dropped all the excuses it advanced in 1979 to justify its wrongful war, backed down from and disavowed its public policies, and once again committed itself to the Algiers agreement of 1975.

Surely the Iraqi Government has committed another sin by invading Kuwait. But the turnaround it made by recognizing the Algiers agreement marks an admission of its first sin, and it has no choice but to own up its second sin and withdraw from Kuwait. Suffice it to point out that, over the past ten years Syria has never shifted position on Iran, and has maintained its cooperation with the Islamic revolution and its rebuttal of aspersions against it. Such a principled, consistent position is sufficient to prove the significance of the Syrian stance, when forces hostile to the Islamic revolution succeeded in arraying a formidable lineup against it. Without a doubt, the Iranian leaders must appreciate and recognize Syria's noble stand, as demonstrated by their continual statements on strategic cooperation with Syria, and their insistence on reinforcing cooperation and friendship between the two countries. Against such a background of relations, President al-Asad's visit assumes exceptional importance, given the volatile Gulf crisis. Syrian-Iranian cooperation remains crucial to defusing a flareup and paving the way for a solution that should reinstate the sovereignty and legitimate government to Kuwait and produce a pullout of Iraqi forces from the country. Withdrawal is certain to go a long way to spur efforts toward true Arab and effective Islamic solidarity underpinned by trust, brotherhood, and common interests.

Al-BA'TH

JN2309100490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Press review]

[Text] In today's commentary entitled "The Importance of al-Asad's Visit to Tehran," AL-BA'TH says: Observers and news agencies unanimously agree that His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Tehran is considered one of the most important events in view of the important positions held by Syria and Iran in the region.

Leader al-Asad's visit to Iran comes at a time which calls for direct consultation on the highest levels to study the developments in the region resulting from Iraq's invasion of sisterly Kuwait and its important and serious consequences.

It is important to stress that leader al-Asad's visit and talks with Iranian officials will focus on strengthening bilateral relations in the various fields which are important to the peoples of both countries and the future and stability of the region.

The paper continues: Leader al-Asad's visit and talks with Iranian officials will, no doubt, have sure positive results in the interest of the Arabs and Muslims and their pressing issues, especially since the purpose of the visit in the first place is to pool Arab and Islamic capabilities in the face of the danger which threatens all people. It is worth emphasizing that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has created a difficult and complicated situation in the region. This situation, no doubt, prompts the faithful Arabs and Muslims to work together to avert a potential disaster, especially since the Iraqi regime is deliberately working to increase rather than decrease tension.

The paper concludes: As a result of the good and strong relations between Syria and Iran, which are based on strong principles that aim at common struggle against the enemies of the Arabs and Muslims, we say that these strong relations along with the political importance of the two countries in the region will help, beyond any doubt, spare the region the dangers which threaten it.

TISHRIN

JN2409065690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Bolstering the Roles of Syria and Iran in Serving the Region," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The historic visit by leader al-Asad to Iran is distinguished by exceptional importance which does not stem only from the significant and regionally and internationally effective role of the two friendly countries, but also from the positive reflections of the visit on the level of dealing with the dangerous Gulf crisis and limiting its negative repercussions.

The newspaper reviews the Arab-Iranian relations since the victory of the Islamic revolution. It affirms that these relations formed a quantitative weight on the regional level which crystallized a firm policy toward serving the interests and causes of the people in the region and confronting hostile designs and conspiracies.

The newspaper says: Proceeding from the weight the Iranian Revolution introduced into the balance of power in the region, especially when confronting the Zionist aggression, Syria rejected the mad war waged by Iraq against Iran and realized its destructive dimensions on both the Iraqi and Iranian people. It exerted all its honest efforts to put an end to it.

The newspaper notes: Stemming from this, leader al-Asad's visit to Tehran constitutes a prominent station in developing bilateral relations and cooperating to put an end to the Gulf crisis and its dangerous repercussions. The two sides agree on the firm principles of rejecting the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and organizing relations between the countries to serve the security, stability, and prosperity of their people.

The newspaper TISHRIN says: The Arab and international circles are following with great interest leader al-Asad's visit and talks with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and the important results that could be made in the interest of the Arabs and Muslims, and especially in the issue of Kuwait. The viewpoints of the two presidents, al-Asad and Rafsanjani, were in agreement. Leader al-Asad stated that the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf region came as a result of the Iraqi invasion and that there is no alternative but to remove the cause so that the effects can be removed. Let the sons of the nation stand in one rank to work toward removing the foreign troops.

As for President Rafsanjani, he condemned the Iraqi aggression and demanded the necessary withdrawal from Kuwait while affirming his country's rejection of changes in the region's map. He pointed out that the Gulf crisis has removed the Palestine question and Jewish emigration from the limelight.

Afghanistan

Kabul Arrests Army Generals for Plotting Coup

LD2209120690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] The Kabul regime recently arrested six of its Army generals. According to a report from the Central News Unit, informed sources are cited in the FRONTIER POST newspaper as saying that the generals are charged with preparing the grounds for an uprising and a coup d'etat among the military, especially among highly ranked officers. According to the same report, although the charges against these persons are serious, due to resistance from military advisors, the Najibullah regime has not been able to punish them personally. Najibullah has been asked to send all those arrested to the Soviet Union [sentence as heard].

Islamic Party Offers Saudi Arabia Support

LD2309184690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1720 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah, 23 Sep (SPA)—The chairman of Hezb-e-Eslami of Afghanistan, Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, has said that Iraq's aggression on Kuwait, and Iraq's threat against the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is an act of tyranny and injustice harming innocent Muslims, and that it is unacceptable for Islam and international norms and laws. He added, in a media statement published here today, that the worrying situation which the region is going through as a result of the Iraqi invasion required a deterrent Islamic stand. He also expressed the readiness of the Afghan provisional government to send thousands of Afghan mujahidin to support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the defense of its territory.

Eng. Gulbuddin Hikmatyar also pointed out that the current situation in the Arab Gulf resulted from the criminal aggression by the Iraqi Army on the Islamic state of Kuwait, and from the harm this army inflicted upon the innocent children of Kuwait. He added that the Iraqi invasion caused great division within the Islamic and Arab nation, and only served the enemies who are lying in wait for this nation.

He also indicated that Iraq's threat against the kingdom's security and its borders was condemned by every Muslim, and therefore it is necessary to stand by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against Iraq's evil intentions.

The leader of Hezb-el-Eslami went on to say that the solution to the crisis law in an immediate Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory and the return of the Kuwaiti legitimacy for the restoration of the rights of the people of Kuwait.

Prime Minister Receives Russian Delegation

LD2409060490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0522 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 23, BAKHTAR—Fazl Hag Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, received today at the Prime Ministry Palace a mixed parliamentary delegation of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) and Afghanistan Veterans Union. Present at the meeting was Nikolay Pastokhov, ambassador extra-ordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union in Kabul.

They talked about the Afghan-Soviet historical friendship and the ever-further mutually-beneficial relationship in the socio-economic sphere and the role of the union in this connection.

The chairman of the delegation informed the prime minister about the type of activity and the steps to be taken by the union in order to expand the friendly relation and cooperation among the peoples of the both countries.

Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister, recalled the traditional and ancient friendship of Afghanistan with the Soviet Union and called the continuation of the friendly relations between the two countries in the interests of the world peace, security and stability of the region and the Afghan-Soviet national interests.

Prime Minister Khaliqyar promised the governent's cooperation for establishing relations of Afghanistan Veterans Union with the private sector and other interested sections.

Defense Minister Receives USSR Delegation

LD2209184190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Defense Minister General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, met this morning in his office with a combined delegation of the RSFSR [expansion-Soviet?] parliament and the Union of Veterans of Afghanistan who are on a friendly official visit to the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to a BAKHTAR report, during this meeting, attended by a number of the members of the leadership of that ministry, the defense minister briefed the delegation on the military and political situation in the country, the gains of the armed forces, and the implementation of the national reconciliation process in the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to another report, the members of the delegation, accompanied by Lt. Gen. Monokay Mangal, general head of army political affairs, laid a wreath at the memorial of the martyrs and paid their respects. According to another report, Minister of State Security General Gholam Faruq Yaqubi met this afternoon with the combined delegation of the RSFSR and the Union of

Veterans of Afghanistan. The BAKHTAR military section reports that at this meeting talks were held on topics of mutual interest and General Gholam Faruq Yaqubi briefed the guest delegation on the military and political situation in the country. [passage omitted]

State Units in Operations Against 'Extremists'

LD2209182890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Ministry of State Security sub-units in Konduz province have undertaken an ambush operation along the Konduz-Sherkhan Bandar highway, crushing a group of extremists who were attempting to steal the property of passengers.

The military section of BIA has reported that during this ambush three extremists, including Abrar, a ringleader, were killed and another six men were injured. State security personnel in this province seized a rocket launcher, two light weapons, and a quantity of ammunition.

According to another report Ministry of State Security organs have recently arrested an eight-man group of terrorists attached to the extremist groups who were engaged in looting the people's property and perpetrating terrorist acts along the highway between Hayratan and Pol-e Khomri. The military section of the BIA reported that state security personnel seized several weapons, a quantity of ammunition, and various motor vehicles.

Weapons, Ammunition Seized From Extremists

LD2209181890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] By launching an ambush operation along the supply route of groups attached to the extremist Gulbuddin band in the surroundings of Baghlan Province, the subunits of the Ministry of State Security have recently seized a large convoy of weapons and ammunition, and arrested 100 armed guards of this convoy including four ringleaders.

According to the BIA's military section, two artilleries, two rocket launchers, three heavy machineguns, 65 Kalashnikovs, one U.S.-made communications set, one printing machine, 12 antitank mines, one [word indistinct], pair of binoculars, 40 anti-personnel mines, 90 Mozael type surface-to-surface missiles, 190 artillery shells, 466 rocket launcher shells, 24 boxes of DShk ammunition, 100 boxes of ammunition for various weapons, 192 mortar mines, four artillery range inspection devices, two mine detonators, 16 fuses, one [word indistinct], one pistol, and a quantity of medicine and clothing with antigovernment propaganda leaflets were seized by the personnel of state security of Baghlan Province.

Fuel Situation Stable After Heavy Fighting

BK2109103190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 21 Sep 90

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Salang, Afghanistan, Sept 21 (AFP)—Vital supplies have begun rolling in from the Soviet Union along the strategic Salang highway where government tanks and troops stand guard after beating off Mujahedeen assaults aimed at starving Kabul in the coming winter. Fleets of fuel tankers gingerly pass unexploded bombs, mines and rockets on the northern route carrying basics to stock government stores in the capital, where gasoline now sells at a dollar a litre and diesel is virtually non-existent.

A trickle of supplies through the vital mountain pass only recently turned into a flood after government troops repulsed two Mujahedeen assaults aimed at snapping the war-torn country's only overland lifeline to the Soviet Union. The Salang leads over the Hindu Kush mountains to Heiraton on the Soviet border. The supplies must pass through an 80-kilometer (50-mile) stretch of the road ruled by militarily influential rebel leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

Brigadier General Mohamad Yusuf Salangi, who commands an elite military division, or about 8,000 men, guarding Salang, Wednesday said that some 100 mujahedeen belonging to Mr. Mas'ud's group died in fighting last month for control of the highway. Another 150 were seriously wounded, he told a group of reporters who were the first to travel the route this year.

"Never in the last 12 years has Mr. Mas'ud suffered such a defeat," he claimed, adding that the first rebel strike in July had coincided with Afghanistan's ruling Watan, or Homeland, party's second congress in Kabul. "We have sent back some of their coffins," Gen. Salangi said.

Almost no fuel tankers made it through Salang last month and only 40 to 50 cargo trucks reached Kabul via the cement tunnels through the Hindu Kush peaks. Gen. Salangi said that now between 500 and 800 transporters used the highway daily. "The situation is now normal. It is not propaganda. ... Fuel tankers are now coming in," the general said as a fleet of Soviet trucks snaked down the Salang tunnel at an altitude of 3,300 meters (10,800 feet).

The convoy was carrying petroleum products which in the past month fetched the highest prices in Kabul since Soviet troops, who once guarded the Salang, completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan in February last year. President Najibullah told army commanders at a closed-door meeting in Kabul Wednesday that his Soviet-backed government would go to any lengths to get fuel into Kabul. "We will bring fuel on mule backs ... And if necessary on our own backs," Lieutenant General Aziz Azam, chief of Afghanistan's military publications, quoted Mr. Najibullah as saying at the meeting.

Soviet-built T-52 tanks are dug in almost every 500 meters (down the highway beginning from Jabbal Saraj town, 60 kilometers (37 miles), from the Salang tunnel, and soldiers were seen bunkered randomly down the road to guard against attacks. Two heavily equipped national guard contingents have been pushed in as reinforcements on the Salang where Sukhoi-22 and Mig jets regularly drop fragmentation bombs or launch strafing runs on every suspicious target.

Countless thousands of rocket and cannon shells litter the road and the local countryside is devastated from the battle Afghan soldiers have fought to control the highway since the Soviet troop pullout. Soldiers said that the remains of almost every demolished house along the road, reduced to rubble by bombing raids last year, had been mined by the rebels and that the mujahedeen often placed explosives on the paved roads under the cover of darkness.

"Do not get off the road. ... They are dangerous," a machine gun-toting colonel screamed as one reporter walked down to collect souvenirs from a bombed Afghan home. Gen. Salangi predicts no more fighting this winter on the Salang, which if it is closed will leave Kabul dependent on airlifted supplies from the Soviet Union at a time when ice and avalanches on the high points of the highway provide problems of their own. Further fighting could also dash the government's hopes of meeting its ambitious freight movement target of 8.2 million tonnes in 1990-91, 44 per cent more than the amount of goods moved in 1989.

India

Air Force Planes To Evacuate Gulf Refugees

BK2109151590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Evacuation of Indians by air force planes from al-Basrah to Dubayy will start on Sunday [23 September]. The number of Indians arriving in Jordan from Kuwait by road has suddenly gone up since yesterday. At present about 4,000 people are arriving there everyday. Our Gulf correspondent, Avinash Goel, reports that 58,000 Indians have so far been evacuated from Amman and other places to Bombay.

The center has asked the state governments to issue instructions to all schools under their jurisdiction to give admission to the children of Kuwaiti evacuees without insisting on transfer certificates and other documents. An official press release issued in New Delhi says the instructions have been given in view of difficulties faced by such children in different parts of the country.

Radio Details Status of Refugees' Whereabouts

BK2109164290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Over 58,000 Indians have been repatriated by this morning from the troubled Gulf region. Most of the Indians were repatriated via Amman and Dubayy while nearly 1,700 persons have come to India through other Gulf countries.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that another 1,300 persons from Amman are being airlifted today. About 10,000 Indians are awaiting repatriation at al-'Azraq camp in Jordan. Arrangements are being made to have them airlifted. Another 3,000 Indians are awaiting repatriation at al-Ru'wayshid camp.

From Baghdad, arrangements are being made to airlift 2,500 Indians by Iraqi Airways. They will be flown to Amman for their repatriation to India. Latest reports say 2,000 Indians are in transit between Iraqi border and no-man's-land and another 3,000 Indians are in transit from Kuwait. The official spokesman told newsmen that no convoys will be leaving afresh from Kuwait either today or tomrorow.

The spokesman confirmed that there was no woman or child in the bus which met with an accident last Monday on the highway between al-'Azraq camp and Amman airport. The bus was carrying 47 Indians of whom eight had died. The injured have been admitted to al-Bashir hospital. The second bus accident took place on Tuesday night in which 40 Indians were traveling from Kuwait to Baghdad. A couple, Mr. M.M. Cherian and his wife Mrs. Cherian died on the spot. Their son Sujeet was seriously hurt while their daughter Sonealis escaped unhurt. The children are being taken care of by the Indian Embassy in Baghdad. Ten persons were hurt seriously who have been hospitalized at (Rammadi) nearly 100 km from Baghdad. Two officers of the Indian Embassy are taking care of the injured at the hospital.

Spokesman Defends Embassy Closing in Kuwait

BK2209084490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry has made it clear that the closure of the Indian Embassy in Kuwait does not mean derecognition of Kuwait by India or India's acceptance of Iraq's occupation of that country. Answering a question by newsmen last evening, the spokesman said there was no option left for India but to shift the embassy to al-Basrah.

Army Called To Control Antireservation Agitation

BK2109162690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, all schools have again been closed in Jammu District for tomorrow following violent incidents by some antireservation agitators. In Chandigarh, the Army staged a flag march in the two curfew-bound sectors of the city this evening. A curfew was clamped in sectors 17 and 22 earlier in the day and the Army was called out to assist the civil administration.

According to an official spokesman, police had to open fire in the air and burst smoke shells and do cane charge.

In Haryana, the Army was called out in Ambala to assist the civil administration in maintaining law and order as the agitators opposing the Mandal Commission report indulged in violence and damaged a number of public buildings and some bogies of the Ambala-Bhatinda train. In Kurukshetra, three bogies of 4 Down Passenger Train were also set ablaze. Reports of arson and violence have also come in from Hissar, Faridabad, and Dadri in Bhiwani District.

In Allahabad, antireservationists organized a rally. A bundh [strike] was observed today in Ujjain. In Assam today, students blocked roads at Guwahati in protest against the Mandal Commission report. The Himachal Pradesh government has suspended teaching work in all educational institutions, including the three universities of the state, till the fourth of next month.

The antireservationists today blocked traffic at about half a dozen places in the capital. The agitators, mostly college and school students, also damaged about a dozen DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] buses and deflated some others.

The condition of Rajiv Goswami, the student who tried to immolate himself in protest against the Mandal Commission recommendations in Delhi on Wednesday, continues to be critical but otherwise stable. According to the acting medical superintendent of Safdarjang Hospital in New Delhi, the patient is conscious and had a comfortable sleep last night.

BJP To Abstain From Integration Council Meeting

BK2109165490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] The National Integration Council which meets in Madras tomorrow for the second time this year will have a heavy agenda. The law and order situation in the country, with particular reference to Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Assam as well as the Ram Janma Bhumi Babri Masjid [a shrine in dispute between Hindus and Muslims] issue will come up for discussion. The 130-member council will also consider in detail the various aspects of promoting secularism in the country.

Our correspondent says the discussion on secularism was strongly demanded in the last meeting of the council in April this year and the prime minister agreed to hold it. The recommendations of the subcommittee on national harmony will also be placed before the Madras meeting. The government is considering a proposal to set up a small secretariat for the national integration council also.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has decided not to participate in tomorrow's meeting. A press release of the party issued in New Delhi this evening says the decision is in protest against the manner in which the delibertions of the committee on national harmony has been publicized. It said the reports have misrepresented the BJP stand on the Ayodhya Temple issue. The release adds that the decision to abstain from the meeting was taken by the party preident Mr. L.K. Advani, in consultation with other leaders, including Mr. A.B. Vajpayee and the party's chief ministers.

Elections in Punjab Ruled Out Before 10 Nov

BK2209085090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] The center has decided against holding of assembly elections in Punjab before the 10th of November when the current spell of president's rule expires. According to PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA], this was decided at a late night meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs in New Delhi yesterday. The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, presided. The news agency, quoting official sources, reports that a special session of Parliament is being convened from the first of next month to consider a constitution amendment seeking extension of president's rule in the state. The decision comes at the end of hectic consultations between the government and various political parties on the issue. The three supporting parties to the National Front—the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], CPI [Communist Party of India], and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]—have expressed themselves against holding of elections in Punjab at this juncture. They have maintained that the situation in the state is not conducive for holding a free and fair elections. The main opposition party, the Congress-I, however, has refused to makes its stand on the issue clear to the government. The various factions of the Akali Dal have opposed any further extension of president's rule in the state.

Iran

Syria's Al-Asad Arrives in Tehran 22 Sep

LD2209102390 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived here at 12:40 hours (09:10 GMT) Saturday [22 September] heading a high-ranking political and economic delegation and was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The two presidents stood at the special platform and the national anthems of the two countries were played. Then President al-Asad reviewed the honor guard.

Iranian military and civilian officials and heads of foreign diplomatic corps residing here were introduced to President al-Asad.

The Syrian president is accompanied by his deputy 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, as well as ministers of foreign affairs Faruw al-Shar', of the interior Muhammad Harbah, of economy and foreign trade Muhammad al-'Imadi, of state for planning Sabah Baqjaji, chief of protocol Khalil al-Sa'davi and scores of Syrian experts and officials.

First Vice-President Hasan Habibi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Vice-President for Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh, Interior Minister Abdollah Nouri, Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics Akbar Torkan, Vice President and head of the Plan and Budget Organisation Mas'ud Roqani-Zanjani, Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces General 'Ali Shahbazi, presidential advisor for international affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, and several other Iranian officials were present at the ceremony.

According to the scheduled programme, President al-Asad and his entourage are to pay homage to the shrine of the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni and lay wreaths of flowers on his tomb today.

He will leave for the holy city of Mashhad, Khorrasan Province to pay pilgrimage to the shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH [Peace Be Upon Him]) (the eighth imam of the household of the prophet (PBUH)).

The Syrian president is to meet with the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and hold two rounds of talks with President Rafsanjani during his 3-day stay here.

Tehran-Damascus ties, international and regional developments especially the Persian Gulf crisis caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the extensive military build-up by the U.S. and its western allies in the region are to dominate Al-Asad-Rafsanjani talks.

Reportedly May Discuss Hostages

NC2209111190 Paris AFP in English 1052 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept 22 (AFP)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived here Saturday [22 September] for a three-day visit to be dominated by the Gulf crisis and concern that Iran might be moving closer to its former foe Iraq.

Mr. al-Asad, making his first trip to Tehran since the Islamic revolution in 1979, told reporters on arrival "We have a lot of things to tell one another and will discuss many things". He was met at the airport by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Syrian leader said the Gulf crisis and the "struggle against the Zionist regime" would be on the agenda. Syria wants to ensure that Iran's improving relations with Iraq will not tempt it to break a trade embargo imposed on Baghhad by the United Nations because of its invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he was extremely pleased at Mr. al-Asad's visit, which came "at an extremely sensitive moment in the history of the region", adding that "Iran and Syria could play a particularly important role."

He noted that the visit coincided with the 10th anniversary of the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war and paid tribute to Syria's support for Tehran in the conflict.

Iran and Iraq began exchanging prisoners of the Gulf war on August 17, two days after Iraqi President Saddam Husayn accepted Iranian terms for a formal end to the conflict.

Despite the overture from Iraq, Iran has continued to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and has pledged to honor the U.N. embargo.

The TEHRAN TIMES newspaper, which reflects the thinking of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, reported Saturday that the Iranian leader and Mr. al-Asad could also discuss the situation of 12 Westerners held in Lebanon, many by pro-Iranian Shiite groups.

"In the past Iran has successfully tried and got released a few hostages in the hope that the Western countries, especially the United States, which had influence over Israel will use (their) leverage and get the Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims free from the clutches of the Zionist regime," the paper said.

Both Syria, a major power-broker in Lebanon, and Iran were credited with arranging the recent release of Irishman Brian Keenan and two Americans, Frank Reed and Robert Polhill.

Iran has repeatedly sought a recriprocal gesture from the United States, namely pressure on Israel to free Palestinian and Lebanese Shiites it is holding in prison.

"Tehran hopes that goodwill gestures should come from the West for using its influence on certain Muslim groups in Lebanon who can try for the release of the Western hostages," according to the TEHRAN TIMES.

Comes 'With Great Enthusiasm'

LD2209122690 Tehran IRNA in English 1106 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad Saturday expressed hope that his talks with his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani would help "further consolidate ties between the two countries." President al-Asad was speaking to reporters upon arrival at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, heading a high-ranking political-delegation delegation, this morning.

The Syrian president said his visit to Iran was aimed at holding talks with the Iranian leaders on bilateral issues, the current situation in the Persian Gulf, internatinal developments, and ways to confront Zionism. He said he was happy at his scheduled meeting with leader of the Islamic Revoluation Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, adding that in the light of the constant contacts between officials of the two countries bilateral ties have been strengthened.

"For this same reason I have come to your country with great enthusiasm. We will meet our dearest brethren and in Iran we do not feel as strangers." President al-Asad appreciated the warm welcome accorded him and his entourage, and invited President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Syria.

Welcoming the Syrian delegation, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the visit was taking place in an appropriate time as it coincided with ceremonies of the 'Sacred Defence' Week, marking Iraq's invasion of Iran in Sept. 1980. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to Syria's cooperation with Iran during the Irqi war and said that it was a good opportunity that Syrian president was also attending the ceremonies.

He stressed that the visit was taking place at one of the most crucial junctures of the history of the region and noted, "Obviously Iran and Syria can play a major role in leading regional issues." President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that the visit would entail fruitful outcomes for the cause of the region and for international peace.

Holds First Round of Talks

LD2209172690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Syrian Arab Republic President Hafiz al-Asad began his first round of talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this evening at the president's office. Participants in these talks from the Iranian side included: First Vice President Habibi; Mirzadeh, deputy president for executive affairs; Rowghani-Zanjani, deputy president for planning and the budget; Interior Minister Nuri-Hoseynabadi; and Mo'ayeri, vice president for international affairs.

Participants from the Syrian side included: Vice President 'Abd- al-Halim Khaddam; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah; Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Sabah, minister of state for planning affairs.

The two countries' ambassadors were also present.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani held private talks with Hafiz al-Asad before the first round of official talks. First Vice President Habibi and Foreign Minister Velayati, as well as Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', attended these talks.

Further on First Round of Talks

LD2209211290 Tehran IRNA in English 1910 GMT 22 Sep 90

["Rafsanjani, Al-Asad See Eye to Eye on Most Regional Issues"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Sep 22 IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today told his Syrian counterpart that world people have "eyes focused on our meeting" aimed at saving the region by solving the current crisis in the Persian Gulf.

"We are optimistic about the future and think that the present crisis will eventually come to an end to the benefit of littoral states with the vigilance of the people of the region," he said. "This visit and meeting is taking place at a time when the region is in need of such an exchange of views more than ever before," the president added.

Voicing concern about the West's increasing hegemonist acts, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani cautioned "We should be on full alert so that the recent events do not leave undesirable impacts."

"We should not allow foreign forces and those hegemonist powers who are all geared up to tighten their grip on vital oil resources, the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea and other sensitive points of the world, to remain in the region."

The president maintained that the aim of the U.S. and other Western countries was not to save Kuwait but rather "they have come to the region for more important goals such a solving the problems of the regime occupying Qods."

"The people of the region and the Syrian government should feel assured that the Islamic Republic's firm policy is to iron out regional problems particularly the Lebanese and Palestinian issues and to fight the regime occupying Qods," he said.

President al-Asad, saying the meeting has undoubtedly drawn world attention, felt assured that "with exchange of views on regional issues particularly the recent events, good results, of benefit to the two countries and other states in the region will be achieved." He shared President Rafsanjani's outlook towards the situation in the region, saying that the Zionist regime was the only gendarme that could be trusted by the Americans and the Europeans.

Rejecting hegemonism and presence of foreign forces in the region, the Syrian president reiterated that security should be preserved by regional countries and that outsiders should not act as a security belt for the region. "We think this is the demand of all popular forces in the region and foreigners cannot stand against this logic," he said.

Towards the end of their first round of talks, the two presidents agreed that high-ranking Syrian and Iranian officials present at the meeting set up political and economic committees to study issues of mutual interests and to hand in the outcome of their talks to both presidents for final approval.

The Syrian delegation to the talks consisted of Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah and Minister of Economy and Foreign Trades Muhammad al-'Imadi. The Iranian party included First Vice President Hasan Habibi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister of Defense and the Armed

Forces Logistics Akbar Torkan, Ali Reza Mirzadeh, an advisor to the president, Masud Rughani Zanjani, head of the Plan and Budget Organization and the ambassadors of the two countries.

Later tonight, President Rafsanjani gave a banquet in honour of his Syrian counterpart, which was also attended by high-ranking officials of the two countries. Talks at the dinner table centered on regional and other issues of the Muslim world as well as Tehran-Damuscus ties.

Welcomed by President at Banquet

NC2309064590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Welcoming Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his delegation, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said last night in a speech at a banquet honoring the Syrian president: Your presence and the presence of the high-ranking Syrian delegation at the ceremony marking the Iranian nation's 10 years of resistance and eight years of bloody defense have made it more meaningful.

Referring to the expansion of the two countries' relations after the victory of the Islamic revolution, Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out: Under the aegis of Islamic beliefs, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the consolidation of good relations with its brothers one of its significant principles. It especially welcomes further strengthening of the bases of friendship and fraternity with the Muslim nation of Syria which defended our just position in the most sensitive moments of the history of Iran. The president added: The possibilities and favorable areas for cooperation and religious, cultural, and historic partnership between the two Muslim nations of Iran and Syria makes us optimistic that our relations will develop and blossom.

Commenting on the regional situation, Hashemi-Rafsanjani clarified: As a result of the Iraqi Government's recent unjustifiable aggression against Kuwait, the Persian Gulf is witnessing an unprecedented presence of foreign forces. This influences the people's daily life and can have dangerous and chaotic consequences for the regional nations. He pointed out: Iran condemns Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and emphasizes the need for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait because of geopolitical considerations. In view of the direct link between the current developments in the Persian Gulf and Iran, which has the longest coastline along this international waterway, Iran has announced that it does not accept a change in the region's geographic situation.

The president pointed out: As we have repeatedly stated, peace and security in the Persian Gulf can be ensured through the cooperation of regional countries. While re-emphasizing its readiness to cooperate with regional countries, Iran announces that arrogant plans under the label of creating a new security system in the Persian Gulf are rejected and unacceptable and that this will not lead to ensuring security and peace in the region.

Pointing to the continued Muslim Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: After three years of unsparing struggle, the proud intifadah of the Palestinian Muslims is continuing to advance toward its lofty objectives. The usurping Zionist regime is continuing its aggressions in the region and is trying to fulfill the dream of establishing of the so-called Greater Israel. Meanwhile, the tragedy of the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine—which is being continued and implemented these days without any commotion because of the Persian Gulf crisis—will have extremely unfavorable political and social consequences for the Islamic world. It is necessary for all the Muslim nations and the defenders of justice and right in the world to mobilize their potential and to confront this plot.

He added: Unfortunately, even though the aggression against Kuwait took place under the demagogic mask of support for the Palestinian people, it has been of the best service to the Zionists and their masters in implementing their plans.

Pointing to Syria's outstanding role in confronting the Zionist enemy, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Iran has, on the basis of the principles of Islam, always emphasized the need for a comprehensive struggle against the Zionist regime and for the fulfillment of the just rights of the Muslim Palestinian nation and is ready for any type of cooperation toward this.

The president also announced the readiness of Iran to extend any type of assistance for solving Lebanon's domestic problems, and he added: We hope the time for solving Lebanon's problems has come on the basis of the agreement of the Lebanese people and by ensuring the view of the majority there, that Lebanon will again be secure, and that all combat possibilities are mobilized against the Zionist enemy and toward regaining the usurped territories.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then continued by pointing to the need for establishing the Islamic rule favored by the people of Afghanistan without foreign intervention, the need to strengthen the Islamic Conference Organization as the common organ of all Muslim nations and countries, and the need to condemn racism.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also described the Third World's foreign debts, poverty, ignorance, and discrimination as the outcome of the domination of colonialist countries over Third World countries and pointed to the need for a world movement to struggle against this or to do so by strengthening international organizations involved in culture, children's health, and so on.

In conclusion, the president expressed wishes for the health and success of Hafiz al-Asad and for the progress and welfare of the fraternal Syrian nation.

Gives Speech at Banquet

JN2209214190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2018 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Speech by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at a dinner banquet hosted by Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafasanjani in Tehran on 22 September—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, dear friends: It pleases us to have a cordial meeting with you. At the outset of our visit, it pleases me to convey to you the sincerest greetings and wishes from our people in the Syrian Arab Republic. In my own name and on behalf of the Syrian Arab delegation, I thank you for the warm welcome, hospitality, and sentiments of friendship that have been accorded to us since our arrival. I cannot but express our deep affection with and appreciation for the speech that we have just heard from President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. This speech, that is full of kindness, is worthy of all our appreciation. It also pleases us to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran and to acquaint ourselves closely with the important achievements your country has made during the era of the Islamic revolution unleashed by the Muslim Iranian people under the leadership of the late Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni. We have stood at the side of the Islamic revolution in Iran since its first day, just as the Iranian Islamic revolution supported our just struggle from the beginning. We have seen in the Islamic revolution the significance of an awakening and the beginning of a great change, especially since it upholds the banners of Islam, and especially since it broke out and triumphed under these banners to restore to Iran its natural position among the ranks of peoples who are confronting aggression and colonialist arrogance, and struggling against them. For its part, the Iranian Islamic revolution, has seen in our struggle an approach that is worthy of its support.

Our people in Syria express gratitude and appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran's firm support for our struggle, and consider that we have common objectives of liberating holy Jerusalem and all the occupied Arab territories; of saving the al-Aqsa Mosque, the holy Dome of the Rock, and all the holy places that are targeted by the Zionist occupation; and of resisting the expansionist Zionist ambitions in the Arab and Islamic homelands. It is a source of pride that the firmest ties linking our countries are the ties of the heavenly message, the message of the great Islam, whose holy Koran, its teachings and principles constitute the best guide to us on the right path, the path of right, justice, and jihad in the cause of God. Since the eruption of the Islamic revolution in Iran, we have seen in its principles and slogans based on the message of Islam a solid basis for promoting relations between our two countries in particular, and between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Arab states in general. We have conducted our policy on this basis, and sought sincerely to achieve this goal.

Based on this principled policy, we voiced our position and followed it when the war broke out between the two neighborly Muslim countries—Iraq and Iran. We have often said that it was an unjustified war, which benefited only the enemies of Arabs and Muslims. We are pleased that the war has ended now, and we beseech God to have mercy on those afflicted by the evils of that war.

Also based on our principled policy, we took interest in building the strongest ties of friendship and cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, because this benefits our peoples and the region, whose resources and wealth we are concerned about maintaining for the sons of this region, from which they can give to mankind, and about sparing them any foreign intervention, whose makers want to harm them.

Now, when we see the presence for foreign troops—which was unexpected, but was due to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait—we sincerely call for removing the reason, so that the result—the presence of foreign troops—is removed, or so that we can work to remove it. We call for removing the pretext for the arrival of those troops—that is, the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, so that the sons of this region can stand together to work for the departure of foreign troops. Officials of the governments of those troops have said they will leave as soon as Iraq's occupation of Kuwait has ended and as soon as the Kuwaiti Government is reinstated. We declare and stress, without any ambiguity, that we will not accept the presence of foreign troops in this region after the Kuwaiti problem is resolved and after this pretext is removed. We feel the seriousness of the emerging situation. We have pointed to this seriousness and its consequences, and we have endeavored to save the region from them. And, we will continue this endeavor.

During the past years, we have achieved a great deal in strengthening ties and bolstering relations between our two countries. We had a fruitful cooperation in more than one field, which benefited our peoples and all Muslims. I am confident that our current visit, with the positive results it will yield, will usher in the beginning of a new phase in the bolstering of ties between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran and broadening the horizons of cooperation between them for their own benefit and for the benefit of this region. I believe that you share with us this conviction.

Concluding my speech, I repeat our thanks and gratitude for the good hospitality and warm welcome. I greet His excellency the president, Hojjat-ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, wishing him good health, happiness, and success. Greetings to you, dear friends, and greetings to the Muslim people of Iran. I wish them continued prosperity and success to build their country and achieve progress. God's blessings and mercy be upon you.

Visits Shrine in Mashhad

LD2309121190 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Sept. 23, IRNA—The visiting Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his entourage arrived here Sunday [23 September] to pay a pilgrimage to the holy shrine of the 8th Shi'ite Imam Reza (PBUH) [Peace be upon him]. The Syrian guest and his accompanying delegation were officially received at Mashhad airport by a number of high-ranking provincial officials.

President al-Asad presented a precious crystal chandelier and a gold embroidered green covering to the holy shrine and later inspected various sections of the shrine. People who lined up along the route of President Assad's motorcade from airport to the entrance of the shrine, greeted the Syrian guests.

Iran's Defence Minister Akbar Torkan, ambassador to Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Syrian Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah, state minister for planning Sabah Baqjaji, and Syria's ambassador to Tehran Ahmad Al-Hasan accompanied President al-Asad in his tour of Mashhad.

Meets With Mashhad Officials

JN2309142490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Radio team dispatch from Tehran]

[Text] Gentlemen, hello from Tehran, where we continue to cover President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The president started the second day of his visit by flying this morning to the city of Mashhad, capital of the Khorasan region, northeastern Iran. He was accompanied by the Syrian Arab delegation. The program of the visit includes meetings with city officials and a visit to the tomb of Imam Reza and the city's museum. A luncheon will be held in honor of the president; it will be attended by the accompanying delegation and a number of Iranian officials. After the visit to this historical Iranian city, the president will return to Tehran, where he is scheduled to meet with the spiritual guide of the Iranian Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

The official talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and the delegation accompanying him and the Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Iranian delegation began yesterday evening. They delt with the latest developments in the region and the various aspects of the relations between the two friendly countries.

Discusses Gulf With Khamene'i

JN2309163590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Dispatch from Tehran]

[Excerpt] Gentlemen, greetings from Tehran. We continue to cover President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

President Hafiz al-Asad visited at 1630 Damascus time today Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Iranian Islamic Revolution. The meeting was attended by Iranian President Hojjat-ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani; Dr. Hasan Habibi, Iran's first vice president; Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati; and Hasan Akhtari, Iran's ambassador in Damascus.

Discussion during the meeting revolved around the situation in the region, the Gulf crisis, and relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

Dicusses Israel With Khamene'i

LD2309204690 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 23 IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution in his meeting with the visiting Syrian president Sunday [23 September], underlined the need for "struggle without respite against the regime occupying Jerusalem by uniting all Islamic and revolutionary forces."

Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i told President Hafiz al-Asad "In the Islamic Republic's view the struggle against Israel is paramount" and revolutionary forces in Lebanon should direct their fightings against the illicit Zionist regime.

The ayatollah thought that the situation in the Persian Gulf "has become dangerous because of ignorance and greed."

Under such conditions, he added, more attention should be paid to the issue of Palestine.

Also present at the meeting were President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, his first deputy Hasan Habibi, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and some ministers of the two countries.

Terming incidents in Lebanon an "indication of the political greed of global arrogance and Zionism," the leader of the Islamic revolution said: "The Lebanese people have proven their mettle in confronting colonial policies and enemy plots."

The Zionist regime was "scared stiff of the committed, pious and combatant forces of Lebanon", he said, stressing that all problems of the Muslim world can be solved by the resistance of committed Muslim forces.

Ayatollah Khamene'i described President Al-Asad's visit to Tehran as an "pleasant opportunity for both countries to further their coordination vis-a-vis the situation in the Persian Gulf."

President Al-Asad who arrived in Iran Saturday [22 September] afternoon said "The Islamic revolution breathed fresh life in the structure of the Islamic ummah. Our feelings towards the Islamic revolution are steadfast and unchangeable."

Describing the Zionist regime as "the foremost foe of Muslims," he said Syria regards the Zionists as "big danger".

The Syrian president said the ideas of the Zionist regime were full of absurdities and this puts it at the top rung of the racist ladder.

Stressing the understanding shared by the two countries on Lebanese issues, he called the role of Islamic forces in the Lebanon "of special importance."

Al-Asad said that both the Islamic Republic and Syria strived to end the clashes and discords in Lebanon because of their joint belief that Lebanon's status quo undermines the position of Muslim, revolutionary forces.

He added that both Iran and Syria share a close view towards the Persian Gulf crisis, triggered by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and followed by an unprecedent military build up of U.S.-led Western forces.

The Syrian president heading a high ranking delegation is on a 3-day visit of the Islamic Republic—his first—at the invitation of President Rafsanjani.

Today morning Al-Asad and his entourage visited the city of Mashhad in Khorasan, for pilgrimage to the Holy shrine of Imam 'Ali Ibn Musa ar-Redha (PBUH) [Peace Be Upon Him], the 8th infallibe imam of the Prophet's (PBUH) household.

On Saturday, the Syrian and Iranian presidents held their first round of talks after an hour of private talks. Last night the Syrian dignitaries were treated to a banquet of honour by Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani.

Continues Talks With President

JN2309184090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Dispatch from Tehran]

[Text] Gentlemen, hello once again from Tehran. We continue to cover President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hojjat-ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this evening visited President Hafiz al-Asad at his place of residence in Tehran. They held a meeting attended on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and on the Iranian side by Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

During the meeting, the two presidents continued their discussion of the topics they talked about at the previous meeting, topped by the situation in the Gulf. They also reviewed the outcome of the meetings held by the joint committees from the two countries to discuss topics related to bilateral cooperation.

Visit Praised by Velayati

JN2309065690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Tehran has gained the great interest of officials and the news media in Iran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed this interest in a statement to the Damascus radio correspondent. He said his country attaches great importance to this visit, which is His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's first since the triumph of the revolution [Islamic Revolution], and is in response to former Iranian President Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's visit.

What makes this visit important, he added, is that it comes at an important and critical time. He said: We think and hope the talks and the exchange of opinions between the two presidents will be successful and constructive. Moreover, he said: The important positions held by the two countries and the strategic relations between them will help establish an effective cooperation to face the current development in the Gulf.

Extends Tehran Visit

LD2409055190 Tehran IRNA in English 0501 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—The visit to Tehran of the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was extended "due to the importance of the issues under discussion and the need to complete consultations."

The public relations office of the president which announced this Sunday night at the end of the second round of al-Asad's private talks with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, did not say how long it had been extended.

Present in the meeting were Iranian and Syrian Vice-Presidents Hasan Habibi and 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam as well as Foreign Ministers 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Faruq al-Shar'.

The two sides followed up the issues discussed in the first round of their talks including Tehran-Damascus ties and the situation in the region.

President al-Asad heading a high-ranking delegation arrived here Saturday on a 3-day official visit.

Commentaries Consider Visit

IRNA Views Syrian Role

LD2209114890 Tehran IRNA in English 0809 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's three-day official visit to Iran which starts today, is viewed as an important event in the wake of the current developments in the Persian Gulf region. President al-Asad's arrival here coincides with the 'Sacred Defence' week, week-long ceremonies marking the outbreak of the eight-year old Iraqi aggression against Iran (launched in 1980).

The coincidence is a fresh emphasis on the role that Syria played as Iran's number one ally during the war period. In the aftermath of the July 17 acceptance of the 1975 accord by Iraq and with regard to the progress made in bilateral talks between Iran and Iraq, some political observers maintained that Damascus might lose its previous strategic stand in its ties with Tehran.

This was mainly due to the fact that these observers viewed the hostility between Iran and Iraq as the main reason for the alliance between Tehran and Damascus. However, under the status quo and in the light of the future prospects of the region, Iran would take a more independent attitude towards its old ally.

The current crisis in the Persian Gulf region which has affected the Middle East in General, will play a determining role in the formulation of Iran-Syria ties in future. Tehran welcomes Hafiz al-Asad and its high-ranking entourage at a time when Syria has been actively involved in the crisis.

President Al-Asad's visit to Tehran takes place following the recent visit of the U.S. secretary of states James Baker to Damascus and that of the Iraqi foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz to Tehran. Meanwhile, Iran's foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is also due to visit Baghdad in a near future to follow up bilateral talks which is expected to include the outcome of as well. [sentence as received]

Syria, by adopting an active role in the Persian Gulf crisis, has taken a pivotal position. In the Egypt-Saudi-Syria triangle, Syria's presence as the representative of the left wing revolutionary front with inclinations towards Moscow's Middle East policies, to a great extent justifies measures and plans of the U.S. and Arab reactionaries in the current crisis.

Syria, through dispatch of its forces to Saudi Arabia, full adherence to political measures against Iraq, and telephone contacts with U.S. President George Bush, has joined the rank of Iraq's Arab foes who were once its friends and supporters. Syria's present hostile attitude against Iraq, even if at the cost of cooperation with the West and Arab reactionaries, is to a great extent apprehensible.

For various deep-rooted and long standing reasons, Syria seeks its security and national interests in severe confrontation with Iraq, aborted Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and even the downfall of Saddam Husayn.

On the other hand, the Persian Gulf crisis has provided a good opportunity for Syria to display the importance of the role it plays in regional developments whereby to minimize its political problems with the West, especially the U.S. Meanwhile, Syria's active involvement in the current Persian Gulf crisis has been, to a great extent, affected by the Soviet Union's flexible stand towards the regional developments.

So far the Soviet Union has adopted a dual stand in the crisis and has taken an attitude which has more or less pleased the two belligerent parties: Iraq on the one hand, and the West and Arab reactionaries on the other. However, in spite of Syria's cooperation with regional and international plans against Saddam, it could not have agreed in principle with the main objectives of imperialism and its reactionary supporters.

Syria is basically opposed to the U.S. intentions in the region and would expose its opposition at an opportunate moment. To this end, the Syrians have reiterated an Arab solution to the regional crisis, not concealed their dissatisfaction at the presence of Western forces in Saudi Arabia, and implicitly condemned expedition of NATO forces to the region.

Also, Syria, as the old friend and ally of Iran, has been under pressure by the U.S. to mediate between the West and Iran in a bid to prevent provocation of Iran's extensive opposition to U.S. plans in the region and avoid a serious cooperation with Iraq. The Americans are even hoping to convince Iran through Syria that they have no objective other than checking the Iraqi aggression and that they would withdraw from the region as soon as the crisis is over.

Washington wants to assure Tehran that the role of the West in the current crisis would not threat Iran's national security. Therefore, diplomatic observers believe that in his trip to Iran Hafiz Al-Asad would in all probability convey proposals and messages from the U.S. to Iran.

Other issues such as bilateral economic relations as well as the situation in Lebanon would also be raised in the talks between Al-Asad and Iranian officials. However, Iran and Syria have been friends and allies for a long period of time and have proved that they attach more importance to commitment to the principles of their bilateral ties rather than to short-term interests.

ABRAR Views Visit, Stance

LD2309105490 Tehran IRNA in English 0748 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept, IRNA—Following reports that the Syrian president Hafiz al-Asad is likely to mediate between Iran and certain countries in his current visit to

Tehran, a Persian newspaper stressed that "President al-Asad should know that Tehran will never accept any unprincipled stands."

Informed political observers consider al-Asad's Tehran visit as a sensitive and working visit, said an editorial in 'ABRAR' today, adding that the Tehran talks cannot proceed its natural course of a friendly visit unaffected by the Persian Gulf crisis.

On the eve of President al-Asad's visit to Tehran which came after an earlier visit to Damascus by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, some news reports suggested that Al-Asad might be carrying some proposals or messages from the U.S. for Iranian leaders. ABRAR said after the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait on August 2, Syria by dispatching troops to Saudi Arabia, had adopted a new political stand.

Damascus has always been looked upon as an anti-Zionist stronghold and many wish it remained so, said the paper but asked if deployment of Syrian forces alongside Western and Egyptian troops and those from other reactionary Arab states in Saudi Arabia was not a shift in Syria's stance.

A new chapter has now started in the present political relations between the two countries in which Iran has no intention to downgrade Syria's alliance during the Iraqi war in the same way that Damascus cannot deny the historical role Tehran has been playing in solving the regional crises.

Presently the region needs to reach a general understanding among progressive forces for the sake of peace and solving the deep-rooted historical issues such as the Palestinian question. Iran's stance towards the Persian Gulf crisis and other international issues is crystal clear and can be regarded as a cornerstone for further consolidation of relations between Tehran and progressive and anti-arrogant countries, ABRAR concluded.

Meanwhile, the Tehran press this morning gave extensive coverage to President al-Asad's talks with his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The English and Persian dailies all front paged the event with pictures from the talks. Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution is to grant audience to the Syrian economic-political delegation this afternoon.

Tehran Radio on Significance

LD2309135590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1057 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings dear listeners. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking delegation to hold discussions with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr. Hafiz al-Asad's first visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran since the victory of the Islamic revolution is very significant, as it takes place in the very sensitive conditions ruling the region as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the extensive presence of the U.S. and Western forces in the Persian Gulf.

Tehran and Damascus have maintained extensive and strong relations in various political, military, and economic fields since the outset of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. Those relations and coordinations have reached strategic levels in many fields. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria have adopted a concerted policy against Israel, reactionary Arab [states], Iraq, and the colonialist plots of the arrogant [countries].

Apart from decisive support for the Syrian policy against Western aggressors and their local lackeys, during the current decade Iran has also taken part in the Syrian anti-Zionist, anti-imperialist struggles and has increased the political might of Damascus by its economic assistance, particularly with the provision of a part of Syria's need for crude oil.

Also, during the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war which lasted for eight years, Damascus has supported our country's position and the legitimacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Other common points in the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Government are the complete cooperation and coordination in support of the Palestinian Muslim people's uprising and the nonstop struggles of the Muslim nation of Lebanon. Both countries have announced political and propaganda support for the anti-Zionist struggles in Lebanon and Palestine and have applied much effort toward the progress of the Palestinian ideals and the Islamic uprising of the people of Lebanon.

Another important issue concerning Iranian-Syrian relations is the bulky visits of the Iranian pilgrims to the sacred shrines in Damascus. For ten years, our country's Ministry of Hajj and Endowment through systematic programs has transferred thousands of Iranian pilgrims to Damascus every week and has provided comfort to the pilgrims with the help of the Syrian officials.

Now, with the development of the crisis in the Persian Gulf region as the result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the deployment of U.S. and Western forces to the region, under the pretext of forcing Iraq out of Kuwait, the Islamic Republic of Iran has called for the complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the immediate exit of the alien forces from the Persian Gulf region and the creation of appropriate grounds for the countries of the region to be able to solve their differences themselves.

Syria, at the same time, adopting a similar policy to Iran's, stressing the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and the aliens from Arabestan [Saudi Arabia] also believes that with the dispatch of a few military units to Arabestan, it is possible to stop the expansion of the Western military influence led by the United States.

At any rate, Mr. Hafiz al-Asad's current visit to Tehran enjoys a significant importance at this sensitive juncture, having in mind the strategic and decisive role the Islamic Republic of Iran plays in the Persian Gulf region. The visit can more than ever strengthen the two countries' relations and create further coordination throughout the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East and show that, despite the wish of the imperialist propaganda monopolies, the two countries are still bound to their fundamental and anti-Zionist strongholds.

Syrian Foreign Minister Meets With Velayati

JN2309193690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the Iranian Foreign Ministry in Tehran today. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to further promote them. They also exchanged views on some international and regional issues, especially developments in the Gulf produced by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The two sides had identical views on all the topics discussed.

Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, also met with Hamid Mirzadeh, Iranian deputy president for executive affairs. The Syrian and Iranian delegations attended the meeting. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in the various areas as well as ways to promote economic and scientific cooperation.

President Says Iran Can Prevent War in Gulf

LD2109122890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] On the threshold of Holy Defense Week—the week for festivity and victory—and at the same time as the anniversary of the martyrdom of the eighth bright star in the firmament of the imamate and velayat, His Holiness Imam Reza, peace be on him, the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran today held the immortal Muslim rites by their presence at the Friday prayer sites.

In Tehran, the Friday prayers were held at Tehran University and the adjacent streets with the expanded presence of the hezbollah ummah under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Elsam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Republic.

The president explained the fruitful story of His Holiness Imam Reza, peace be on him. He also referred to unknown parts of the life of his holiness and asked researchers and historians to engage in more research on these unknown corners.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of Holy Defense Week and the week of festivity and victory, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani explained the way the war was launched by the Iraqi Baathists, as well as the resistance by the people during the war. He said: Following the victory of the Islamic revolution, the world's satans decided to break and weaken the revolution and to that end they began to plan and to draw up programs. At various times they resorted to actual attempts, but were defeated. It was then that they launched their formal and military invasion of Iran through Iraq. And yet again they met with the resistance of the ever-on-the-scene people. We shall never forget the self-sacrifices of the residents of Khorramshahr who stood for 24 days against the army of the Baath.

The president said that at the beginning of the war the arrogance was trying to portray Iran as the aggressor who started the war. There are documents showing that even international assemblies concurred through their silence.

The president added: When Iran brought Iraq under pressure, the American, the British, the French, and the Arab reaction were talking of peace while simultaneously providing Iraq with help.

Referring to the factors which brought about the cessation of hostilities and the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598, he said: Two factors—the scorched-earth policy and the presence of the multinational forces in the region against us—were responsible for the change in our tactics at a time when we had the largest force throughout the war. Thus, the decision of the imam [Khomeyni] was based on the cessation of war. And so we entered the era of talks on implementing the resolution. And its result is what you see now. The Islamic Republic of Iran emerged the victor; it now enjoys the peak of its popularity. Thanks to the efforts of our people no dent was inflicted on Iran's territorial integrity.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Our revolution is not a revolution for weapons, territory, or money. What we were after were facts—which were exposed. Recent trends have proved that the imam's remarks were right. So much so that the U.S. Congress puts [President] Bush on trial, asking why he provided help to Iraq. The President said that defense, retaliation, and then acceptance of the resolution, resistance to Iraqi intransigence during the talks, and his correspondence were all carefully calculated. Despite the fact that inside the country a number of renegades and hooligans cooperated with foreign radio stations and coordinated with them through clandestine pamphlets, we saw that the Iranian nation was victorious.

Referring to the factors bringing about the victories already achieved, he said: The unprecedented and miraculous management of the imam is one factor. The second factor is the very wise management of the exalted leader of the revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. And the secret of his success is found in his all-embracing knowledge, wisdom, and ability to make good choices. These are due to his background in administrative work, his knowledge of the world, his experience in tackling domestic and foreign problems, his revolutionary intelligence, and his religious knowledge.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: Our nation today feels victorious, tranquil, and stable and does so with all its existence. This at a time when our warmongering enemies, who used to stab us in the back and in the front, today feel insecure and uncomfortable. We are not happy to see them in such a predicament; we wish for the people to work in tranquillity. The divine arbitrator is around, however. The enemies are now paying for their own deeds. Those who did us injustice have now themselves fallen victim to injustice; and so they have brought about tension to the region. At this juncture we perform our Islamic role; we are not trying to kill our enemies; we are not pinning the blame on somebody, or seeking revenge.

The president said: We condemned Iraq's aggression against Kuwait before everybody else. And now we want Iraq to leave the territory of Kuwait. We are opposed both to this troop massing and to that aggression. If the world accepts our word we will prevent a heavy war from breaking out. The Americans and their fellow travelers must, meanwhile, leave the region.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Conducts Friday Sermon

LD2109143990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1218 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Second Friday sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 21 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]. The main issue in my second sermon concerns the issue of Holy Defense Week, our victories, the regional conditions, and a brief analysis of the duties which we have during this sensitive juncture. However, before I start discussing this extensive topic, I wish to refer to some of the topics of the coming week: One, the start of the schools, and the next is about the opening of universities. [passage omitted]

Regarding Holy Defense Week which this year has been turned into a week of celebration of our victories and the situation which has been created as the result of our victory, and regional issues, I will engage in a concise discussion which will include all these issues. All of these are parts of the same topic, but I will try to address all these issues. I will speak a little about the past facts which have brought us to the present juncture. I will speak a little about the reasons for this victory, and a little about the dimensions of this victory; and a little about the dimensions of this victory; and, if there is any opportunity, I will also talk briefly about the duties which we have regarding these conditions. This is a short agenda of the topics in this sermon. Past events are very clear and tangible, but we should briefly review them. All of you know about them, as you have been involved in those currents and events, but maybe the marshalling of these facts needs some technical ability. [sentence as heard]

The fact is that, after the victory of the Islamic revolution, the satans of the world, those who do not like Islam and the revolution and who regard them to be against their interests, made plans to destroy that revolution: either completely destroying it or making it so weak that it would not be able to shed its light. At that juncture no matter how much they tried they were faced with defeat: in their upheavals [which they brought about] their coup d'etats, the incitement of the liberals, and other acts of sedition which you have witnessed. All those ended in failure.

During that time they were preparing themselves for a formal, military invasion. They could not launch this attack immediately. Therefore, they were preparing for it; because they knew and guessed that it might reach that point. Before starting their military invasion they said—and we have proofs of it—that it would start in such a way that Iran would not be able to resist. This was the Iraqi military invasion of Iran. We know how it came about; very much like the invasion of Kuwait which has now taken place. However, in those days Iran was not Kuwait. They had to find a pretext. They made certain preparations. They fomented border clashes for two or three months, so that they could confuse the issue and say in some way that Iran had been responsible for starting that war. Thanks be to God, they did not succeed in that either.

Finally, at a certain time they started the military invasion, and it was supported by nearly all the satans [big powers]. The hands of eastern and western arrogance [the USSR and the United States], all the reactionaries of the region and Zionism were all involved. However, the Iraqi Ba'th constituted its sharp point. They spearheaded the invasion. Documents clearly show that international organizations with their silence supported the invasion. They could have done at that time what they are now doing regarding Kuwait. The UN Security Council could have convened and condemned [the Iraqis], calling on them to withdraw unconditionally, to blockade it, to embargo it. They did not do any of these things. Instead, they encouraged them; and in their remarks they continued maligning us. They blamed us as much as they could; but in order to keep up the pretence they sometimes said a few words against the other side too.

The first blow which they delivered did not achieve its aims. Of course, they took majaor steps but they did not achieve their aims. The Iraqis only succeeded in entering a trap. They could not occupy Ahvaz. They could not close the road between Ahvaz and Dezful and they did not succeed in cutting the links between Khuzestan and the capital. At first, they did not even succeed in occupying Khorramshahr and Abadan, although it was among their first aims. The same was true of the Western part of the country.

The main factor was the steadfastness of the people. You remember that in Khorramshahr the people of that city forced the massive Iraqi forces to stay outside the gates of the city for 24 days. This was a major achievement. Look at Kuwait, where the Iraqi tanks went in one hour from Rumaylah to the Amir's palace. Here Shalamcheh and Khorramshahr are joined together; but if they took one step forward our boys turned them back two steps. After they captured Khorramshahr, they faced the same predicament in abadan and they could not undo the knot there. [passage omitted]

Finally, the good mobilization forces and the people themselves entered the field, and we left behind the first phase, which was the phase of halting the enemy, consolidating the lines and the fronts, while we were preparing ourselves behind the fronts for our subsequent attack. During that phase the presence of our esteemed leader, His Eminence Ayatolla Khamene'i [crowd chants "God is great"] together with the martyr Dr. Chamran, truly played a very effective role. That was another chapter. Of course, by now all the people had joined in.

At that time, our weak point was the presence and command of Bani-Sadr at the fronts. He was truly a source of disgrace for our defenses, which gave us a lot of headache. I remember that from here I and marytr Raja'i and martyr Beheshti and others went there to persuade him to allow the people to go to Abadan and to defend Abadan. We went to a great deal of trouble. We told him the committees have so many personnel. Give them rifles and allow them to go; but they did not give them permission to go. Finally, we got permission, but it was difficult for us to send them. He did not believe at all in people's defense and the presence of the people at the fronts. The armed forces were not prepared for such a mighty task at that time either. He brought about this unfortunate situation and we faced a certain delay due to his presence. During that time Iraq succeeded in consolidating its position in the places it had occupied; (?to go underground) and do many other things.

Having put that stage behind us, we began our assault. The imam commanded us to break the siege of Abadan, hence intensifying the action. The operations of Dar-Khuwain, Samen-al 'Aemeh, Fath-ol Mobin, Bostan and Bait-ol Moqadas were carried out one after the other and indeed stripped the enemy of any chances—one operation began before another had ended—hence forcing the Iraqi forces out of Iran. The conquest of Khorramshahr constituted the climax of our action. From there on the policy was changed. Iraq withdrew to behind its defensive lines, where it constructed a reservoir between us, as well as a minefield and circular barbed wire, and other things which you already know.

We adopted an attack stance, since they still had a significant presence on our territory: moreover, we had other aims in mind which we were pursuing. [passage omitted].

Our combatants proved to be victorious throughout those years, while the enemy manifested its wickedness in those years, and it has manifested it even more today. I ascribe a share of our victory to the discovery of these malicious and pretentious individuals—the Americans, the English, the French, these arrogant powers, as well as the Arab reactionaries from various sides. The hypocrisy of their peace rhetoric, and the prodigious assistance they rendered the Iraqis was at a time when we had brought the Iraqis under immense pressure on the other side of the reservoir and their defensive lines. They rendered them all kinds of assistance, and us all kinds of malice. There is really no need for me to repeat all this, since some of these scenes will probably be shown or related to you during Holy Defense Week.

This carried on until we reached the climax of the war, which was yet another turning point. Two new factors entered the scene—we have as yet not elaborated on those two factors, but will do so when we find the opportunity—which led to the acceptance of the Resolution. One factor was that of the scorched earth policy [sarzamin-e sokhteh] adopted by the Iraqis—the initiator and creator of which has now taken the helm in Kuwait and taken charge of Kuwait. The other factor was the policy of the presence of the multinational forces who were deployed against us in our waters and in the region. These two factors were made clear when we entered Halabcheh; one that the Iraqis had intended to appeal to our sense of pity, albeit at the cost of destroying their own nation and massacring the entire population of Iraq, as a means of dissuading us from entering Iraq too many times. You witnessed the tragedy of Halabcheh. It was at that time that they killed so many people in Kurdestan by deploying mustard gas. They were truly ruthless. We were present there at that time. In our penetrative operations inside Iraq we had advanced as far as Mosel.

Our free men [released POW's] are not aware of this—perhaps you too are unaware—since these were among the secrets of our command headquarters. We had drawn out a plan to rescue our POW's from Mosel. We had worked on that plan for a long time. We went as far as entering the camps. We are more aware of the state of the camps than our POW's: the rooms, the corridors, the ammunition depots, the number of guards, all the lines and routes outside Mosel. We tried very hard and spent vast sums of money to deliver guns and resources to that area. Even now, we have still some ammunition there, which I pray to God has not been seized by the Iraqis—or even if it has, it doesn't matter. Everything was prepared for the rescue, since the main section of our POW's were concentrated there. We were to rescue them in one operation—at the time our presence in Kurdestan was greater than that of the Iraqis. There were problems which caused us delay, such as the number of the injured and sick and how we were to transport them. another problem was how to take care of them on the road back At some stage we had to cross Turkish territory, where they always created obstalces for us, but often we managed to reach it.

We had reached that point, in other words our presence in Mosel and that area in Iraq was very serious. Our POW's were unaware. We had advanced that far, when we had to encounter the scorched earth policy, as a principal obstacle. [passage omitted]

These two factors made us change our tactics. Our strategy was, of course, one of peace, and to that end we opted for the resolution. [passage omitted]

That phase ended, and we entered the next one which was that of negotiations toward the implementation of the resolution. The resolution served our interest. If you remember, we had not rejected the resolution, even when we had reached the peak of our advance inside Iraqi territory. The resolution was issued and we said we would neither accept nor reject it, since we indeed supported the resolution. For that reason we did not reject it, but accepted it in due time [passage omitted]

Our policy came to implement the resolution. This interim juncture is that of adopting policies, which is something on which you should not expect us to expound. I will disclose them later, at a suitable opportunity or perhaps when history is being written. Especially in these recent weeks, from the day the Supreme National Security Council was established and the principal officials in the country took up their posts as advisors to the leader, scrutinizing the issues, and the leader directly supervised the agenda of work, policies were adopted, the result of which is what you see at the moment; something which we should explicitly term a victory, since the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic have been the victors in every respect

Of course, some areas of victory are yet to be achieved. We are on the way and we hope to complete them. The main objectives we defended in order to either break and destroy or weaken our revolution. Today there is no gullible person in the world who does not comprehend the fact that the Islamic Republic enjoys the highest level of dignity and acceptability.

They wanted to alter the borders of our country, to alter Khuzestan. You witnessed how not even an inch of our sacred land and territory was taken away from us. One researcher used to say: Any time a war broke out around Iran, part of Iran was taken away—except this time, when Iran managed to regain everything thanks to the efforts of our people, to which we refer now. At no time in Iranian history, during the past and up to now, have so many forces attacked Iran all together. The East, the West, reactionaries, Zionists, all were mobilized to inflict a blow on the country, and they did not succeed. In previous times Iran confronted a single enemy and still parts of Iran were lost each time. This is an interesting issue. Any fair person can judge how one side was supported by many satans and the other side fought and defended and remained oppressed, alone and stood on its own feet. It is an easy matter to recognize such an important victory.

Another part of the victory is the revelation of facts. This section of the victory I think is more considerable. We were going to recapture our territory sooner or later, a few thousand kilometers. Our revolution is not a revolution for territory, weapons, or money and so on. Economics and all that are secondary to it. What we seek and what comprises the contents of our revolution is that facts are revealed. God knows how many billions of words, how many millions of lines and pages were written during that one month and were published in publications throughout the world, in the language of those who were not prepared even once in their life to speak out, even one word, for justice, God, Islam, and us, and they have admitted that the Iranians were right.

It became evident that the imam was right. It became clear who was who. Repeatedly we said they were warmongers, which they did not accept. Now you see, at a time when they are struggling with their problems, Mr. Bush has been put on trial by the U.S. Congress, asking him why he defended Saddam then, and why he adopted such policies.

Our southern neighbors are now regretting that they gave so much money and assisstance to them, asking: Why did we utter so much nonsense and adopt such oppressive measures toward this noble neighbor of ours to help that aggressive neighbor?

Those facts have entered the pages of history. One day these facts will be collected by our friends throughout the world. They make a shelf full of books providing information to libraries and research centers throughout the world as genuine sources admitting to what this meek nation suffered at the hands of oppressors in history to protect its revolution and its people and its path.

Another victory which is very important to us from the view point of national interest, is that our people realized their path was a right path. That would have been bad for our people to judge and say we did wrong, we should have done differently. That would have been a blow to a nation and a revolution's historic character. Now they look back and see all the moves were meaningful. Our defense, our retaliation in kind, our acceptance of the resolution, our steadfastness in our negotiations and correspondence, and all our actions were completely calculated.

This nation can then have confidence in itself and reject what others tried, through their deafening propaganda, to engage the minds of our nation and despite the fact that a number of hooligans and renegades, under the names of analysts or benefactors of the nation, cooperated with foreign radio stations and coordinated themselves with them through clandestine pamphlets to create doubt in our people that mistakes were made. This happened in Khorramshar and somewhere else. We saw that the Iranian nation was victorious. Now they see the whole path and see the decisions made were right. The imam of the ummah, that old wise scholar, was sent by God to propose the right decisions to the nation at the right time and guide the revolution and the nation; and this nation looks back seeing not a spot of weakness and will continue in future on a way which has been paved for it. [crowd chants: "Allah O Akbar," "God is the Greatest," "Death to America," "Death to Britain," "Death to the Hypocrites and Saddam," "Death to

Israel," "We are the Followers of the Imam, "We Are the Protectors of the Revolution"]

May God keep you. Thank you. The main point for us right now is the manner in which we went through the war, which was a great victory for us. When we stopped fighting, all our military resources and the force with which we were fighting and with which we penetrated deep into Iraq remained for us just as they were because they did not belong to anybody else. We were not indebted to anyone. We were not dependent on anyone. The army maintained its resources well. The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Council fought with great initiative. The Mobilization of the Oppressed, that great endless force, that vast sea of humanity which went to the front when it was necessary, and worked when necessary in factories, universities, schools, and shops.—that experience of holy defense is a great experience for us in the world today.

No such successful experience of defense exists elsewhere. These very same Americans, when they were here two years ago, would not have dared speak to us in that way or to come onto our territory. Is that the case today with Iraq which, so it supposes, has modern weapons and technology? At that time, if the United States had stepped onto our territory, their graves would be right here. However, that is not how it is with Iraq now because it did not fight the way we did. It fought with their weapons, with their resources, with their intelligence and in their own way. But this nation scored a great victory in its war: that is, this great experience and these resistant and mojahed forces; with the result that it will be quite some time before anyone would harbor the idea of invading this country.

As for the factors behind all this; the factors behind this victory, there are many. I will only mention them: that unparalleled and miraculous leadership of his eminence the imam from which stems everything which we have in this revolution; and today, the wise and unique leadership of our eminent leader and it is appropriate for me, whilst I am explaining the victories to you—although I am not sure how willing he would be for me to say these things,—I think it is my duty to express gratitude and give recognition. He is giving the best kind of leadership for policy-making and for guiding the affairs of the country, and I consider this success, alongside all the other factors, which I will shortly mention and which all played their role, to be largely indebted to the comprehensive knowledge, prudence, and wisdom of the eminent leader. Because of his long experience in executive matters in this position as president, he knows everyting about the affairs of the country.

He knows the world well. He knows the components of the world. He knows the methods of our opponents. He knows about internal and external problems. He is familiar with dealing with affairs, and with the revolutionary intelligence which God has given him and with the deep religious knowledge, with his knowledge of Islamic teaching at the level of theological reasoning, he makes very suitable ad timely decisions.

We, too, work; of course, we are not the main policy-maker of the country. The main policy-maker of the country, according to the constitution and according to our historical realities, is the leader. The Supreme National Security Council is his arm, his consultative arm. We prepare things and take them to him so that he can decide. Throughout all these stages, I testify to you that his support, his laying of the groundwork has always facilitated our tasks.

His familiarity with the domestic situation—at times the rule by instinct [ghogha-salari] and the fomenting of atmosphere [jav-sazi] tie the hands of officials and they cannot make timely decisions—is such that he is one of the people who made the expression rule by instinct current as a negative term in the culture of the revolution. He prevents very well these kinds of things which can trample the interests of the country underfoot with dramatic slogans, because he is familiar with that sort of thing. And decisions are made in a timely way. Of course, a large part of the past glory goes to him.

In this period, when our task is policy-making and guiding affairs, I must stress his very effective role here. God be praised, if we do not have the Imam among us today, we have someone who guides this nation like the Imam. [crowd chants in support] The main factors which we had at our hand to work with were, well, the imam's wise management and the wise management of the leadership—each at its own juncture in time—as well as the self-sacrifices, self-denial, and craving after martyrdom by our fighting forces. As a result, that very hard period was endured and we lived through it. And also it was the boundless support of the nation, the ummah, which made it possible for our leadership and our combatants not to feel that they had been left alone. Our officials always felt themselves to be under the protection of the leader and the nation. As such they were supporting factors.

The patience and endurance of the families of the martyrs, the POW's, the missing in action and the disabled were also factors bringing about victory. [passage omitted]

The endurance of our freed men, whose welfare is our problem of the day also ranks as a factor. These are our dear ones and our beloved guests. They have come from those camps where they lived in hardship and yet they are proud. They are endowed with high morale, and enduring spirit, and full of energy as they return to their homeland. They defeated the enemy at POW camps through their patience; they decorated the pages of our history with pride. By their return they have added a large force to our society. And they were also among the principal factors enabling us to put up resistance, especially during the period when talks were going on. If we were under pressure from the families of our POW's or if we were thinking that they could not have patience, if we thought they would create problems for us during the two-year period of talks—a period in which we endured a great deal of hardship—then we could not have put up such a great deal of resistance. We could not have broken through the barrier of intransigence in the talks to continue the effort to the end. So I attribute this victory to them.

All in all our nation today feels stable, victorious, and tranquil and at a time when our enemies—the fire-stoking villians—as well as the powerful giants who used to stab at us back and forth are all now feeling uncomfortable and insecure. The renegades have now joined the melee against each other. Of course, we are not happy to see such a situation. We wish nobody to be a victim of aggression. We like to see the country and the region secure. We like to see no shock inflicted on the world community of nations. We want people to live in peace and quiet. But one's bad deeds, one's sins are bound to rebound somehow. The divine arbiter is around. [passage omitted]

They are now at each other's throats, taking hostages from each other and showing teeth and pouring poison. In the meantime they have brought tension to the region, as you see. Yet, at this juncture we are playing our Islamic role, without being influenced by the injustices and wrongs done to us. At this juncture we are not after revenge; we are not bent on killing our enemy. We do not even like to reproach the enemy. If we are talking about it now, our aim is to say just a few words enough to draw their attention so that they may do not do injustice to another underdog in future. We condemned Iraq's aggression against Kuwait before anybody else—despite the fact that by its own admission Kuwait provided $19 billion or $14 billion during the war to be turned into bombs thrown at us.

Now we do not agree to anything less than the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait—the whole of Kuwiti territory. But at the same time we are worried over the presence of so many military forces—lethal forces which cannot be trusted. They have come to the region and nestled close to God's House. And sometimes it is learned from their words that they have long-term objectives. These worry us. We are opposed both to this kind of troop ammassment and that kind of aggression. We are also opposed to the outbreak of war and the annihilation of the region. We are making efforts through peace with Iraq and talking with them. We might be able, if they accept our words as a benevolent adviser, to prevent a heavy war breaking out in the region. Of course, justice must be given to whom it belongs. Iraq must abandon aggression and keep quiet in the region. The Americans and their fellow-travellers must return to their own countries, leaving the region to the people of the region. We are ready to help all neighboring countries to live in peace.

Media Review Letters From President to Saddam

2 May Letter

LD2209104390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1735 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] On 2 May 1990, His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani provided his answers to the points put forward by the Iraqi president [in his first letter]. The text of this letter has been studied several times by members of the Iraqi leadership cadre. Although this letter was the first letter by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it delineated the general policy in correspondence between the two countries concerning peace:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God, the lord of the worlds. Peace and blessings upon Muhammad, his servant and messenger, and upon his pure and holy kin.

Your Excellency Mr. Saddam Husayn. I have seen your letter dated 21 April 1990. Truly, if the issues which are contained in that letter were taken into consideration eight years ago and if the despatch of messages had taken the place of the despatch of soldiers, Iran and Iraq today, and perhaps the entire Islamic ummah, would not have faced so much loss and damage.

Everyone knows that from the beginning and always, the Islamic revolution has adopted as its goals closeness between the Islamic countries, the glory and dignity of Islam and the Muslims, struggle against the usurping government of Israel, and the liberation of Palestine. If all the countries of the Arab region had appreciated the value of this anti-Zionist and antiarrogant revolution and had cooperated with it—as some have done—the balance of power in the Middle East now would have been in the interest of Islam and of Muslims, and Israel and [world] arrogance would not have found an opportunity to expand their existence and extend their evil deeds. Of course, we have no problem with the Arab nation and we have benefited from the sincere cooperation of some Arab governments. It is such a pity that a historic opportunity has been lost over the past ten years.

At the very beginning of the Islamic revolution, an unwanted and destructive war was imposed on us and a large part of our territories in the Western border region of the country were occupied, and a large part of the human, economic, and military resources of the two great Iranian and Iraqi nations which should have been used in the struggle against blasphemy and polytheism were wasted. The enemies of Islam and the big powers, especially the world-devouring United States, benefited from that war, and under the pretext of supporting some of the countries of the region interfered in their domestic affairs or increased their interference. Israel also benefited from that situation and implemented some of its expansionist and aggressive policies. The normalization of the Camp David disgrace and the compromise by some of the governments of the region with the usurping Israel is the outcome of this situation.

We have repeatedly said that had the war not started, and had the capabilities of the two nations of Iran and Iraq been used for the unity and safeguarding of the interests of the Muslims, then Western arrogance and Zionism would not have dared engage in so much impudence. In any case, one should learn a lesson from what has come to pass, and one should bear in mind that the continuation of the situation of neither peace nor war, or the resumption of war, will result in greater destruction for the Iraqi and the Iranian nations, in weakness for the Islamic ummah, and in the happiness of world blasphemy, and will provide world blasphemy with greater opportunities.

Of course, the experience of the imposed war has even convinced those who were slow to understand that a military invasion would not be able to shake the pillars of the Islamic revolution which is based on the will of the Muslim people.

Here, I should emphasize that as the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, sactified be his noble soul, announced after the acceptance of the resolution [598] that: We speak truthfully to our people; in the context of Resolution 598 we think of a lasting peace, and this is in no way a tactical move. In our efforts to achieve a real and comprehensive peace we have never entertained the slightest doubts. His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the revolution, is also decisively following the same path delineated by our late imam for achieving a comprehensive peace.

On this basis, we welcome any initiative and proposal which might lead the two countries to a comprehensive peace; especially under the present conditions when the supporters of usurping Israel are trying to benefit from the dissension existing within the Islamic world in order to achieve greater concessions, weakening the Muslims and strengthening the mischievous Zionism. We do not regard the situation of neither peace nor war as desirable, and we will decisively choose the path of real and comprehensive peace which will safeguard the interests of the Islamic ummah.

I draw your attention to the fact that continuation of the occupation of a part of our Islamic homeland can slow down our movement toward the achievement of a comprehensive peace, or can even make it fruitless. You know that after our decision to stop the war, we immediately withdrew all our forces from inside Iraqi territory to our borders. You should know for certain that the continuation of this situation will give rise to serious doubts in the sincerity of the other side in the minds of the Muslim Iranian people who have devoted themselves to Islam and the revolution. We are determined to maintain the confidence of the people in the path of peace, as we did during the period of defense.

The second point is that before any contact between the presidents of the two countries [takes place], it is necessary that a representative from me and a representative from you should sit together in a country which has friendly relations with both sides to discuss what must be done, so that they may prepare the groundwork and the preliminary stages for the final decision without any waste of time. On the other hand, the method of operation should be in such a way that it does not weaken the validity of Resolution 598, which is an appropriate framework for the solution of differences.

I only desire for betterment to the best of my power; and my success can only come from God. In him I trust, and unto him I look. [Koranic verse] Peace be upon those who follow guidance.

[signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, 2 May 1990

18 June Letter

LD2209144990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1805 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Second letter from Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani sent on 18 June 1990, in reply to 20 May letter from Saddam Husayn; text of letter read out by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Praise be to God, to God's messenger and his scion, and his dear companions. [Previous sentence read in Arabic]

Your Excellency Saddam Husayn; your second letter dated 29 Ordibehesht 1363, 24 Shawwal 1410, [20 May 1990] was received. As your letter is indicative of your government's considerable seriousness toward achieving peace, we reply to your second letter too. However, we expect from now on that time is not wasted one exchanges of letters unless it is absolutely necessary, and does not cause the two nations and the people of the region further suffering as a result of the no war-no peace situation. We pray that this will be the last correspondence, and that we will witness serious practical steps towards achieving peace.

Your letter indicates a number of grievances about parts of phrases and meanings in our reply to you. We are also not pleased about raising points that may be offensive. Unfortunately the foundations of that structure were laid in your first letter which, as you put it, was written with the intention of wiping away the old quarrel, rising attitudes, and paving the way to Friendship. for instance, it was claimed in the first letter that we were confronting the Arab ummah, implying many futile efforts were made during the war.

You yourself and your party made remarks from the position of a progressive current and a confrontation front. You have said that some people, such as kings, shaykhs, and leaders, who supported you during the war, were not members of the Arab ummah, and you have said, written, and left enough clear documents to expose their nature. It is unlikely you have forgotten that most of the progressive governnments and your fellow trenchmen were siding with us in that dispute, or at least remained neutral.

You also know very well the situation of the people, in particular the pure Islamic forces. In your first letter, we were invited by you—claiming to be the defender of Palestinians, Palestinian affairs, and resistance forces—to confront the imperialist invasion. Even though it is unlikely that the producers of the letter were not aware of the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran pioneers and cares for confronting imperialism, and do not know that the first aim of the arrogant's invasion would be the Islamic revolution of Iran, still it would have been better if that fact was not undermined, even if it was written to attract our confidence. Apart from the fact that you have not observed in your letters the normal formalities customary in formal correspondence, your first and second letters also include phrases and expressions containing negative and offensive points, such as those you have criticized in our letter. It is better we leave these issues; even we would not have written these points, as we are thinking of peace and not of disputes and wars of letters.

With regard to the officials taking part in the final discussions, it is better to make it clear here that His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Islamic revolution's vali-ye amr [supreme jurisconsult], will not take part in the discussion. Of course, the president and other officials do not act against the will of the leadership, and on important issues seek his opinion before taking any actions. In this regard also, if the president takes part in the discussions, it would be with full authority, and the decisions will definitely be implemented. There is no reason to worry, as you mentioned in your letter.

To prove that there was good will together with a serious approach to the path of peace, in the second letter comparison was made between the withdrawal of our forces after the acceptance of the resolution and the situation after the Bayt al-Moqaddas operation as well as the recapture of Khorramshahr and tactical retreats during the end of the war. I wish you had not have entered into that debate; then there would have been no need for additional explanation. You know that even after the capture of Khorramshahr your military forces, at the middle sections of the front, remained inside Iranian territory on many positions. These included the townships of Naftshahr, Khosravi, and Mehran as well as tens of villages and heights where conditions were different from the southern front. Most of these regions have remained under the occupation of your forces since the beginning of the war until today. There is a remote possibility that your commanders may have hidden [these] facts from you.

Despite the fact that [you have] repeatedly stressed the need to avoid adopting controversial positions—positions which could lead to reaction—in [your] second letter there are references to some allegations which are incompatible with the above emphasis. And you are aware that rights are not defined on the basis of personal inferences and demands; rather they are defined on the basis of recognized laws and regulations. We believe that one of the main principles which guarantee the establishment of a lasting and honorable peace between the two countries is the principle of honoring commitments and respecting international obligations.

We regard your emphasis on the validity of Resolution 598 as a positive point. However, it is worth mentioning that the said resolution is clear and free of any ambiguity. And it can be implemented on the basis of the methods proposed by the [UN] secretary general who is responsible for its implementation.

We do believe that moves such as the repetition of useless positions whose inefficiency has been made obvious during several rounds of talks under the supervision of the secretary general; pretentions to the effect that identification of the party [responsible for] starting the war—which, according to Resolution 598, is one of the key duties of the secretary general toward laying the foundation of a lasting peace between the two countries—is a difficult task; obstruction of the path of gradual measures and practical steps toward the attainment of a comprehensive and final peace; the presentation of unfounded allegations; and any act similar to those acts which may contadict good will by either party are incompatible with the objectives of attaining peace.

Unfortunately, unsuitable statements which were reflected in the resolution of the Arab summit in Baghdad—with regard to the problems of Resolution 598 and the rights of Iraq and Iran—can create a problem in the way of confidence building and trust in good will and peaceful intention. Therefore they need to be made good.

Mr. Sirus Naseri will, as my reprentative, participate in the talks with your representative. His mission is to carry out negotiations on subtative problems regarding the implementation of the resolution and to prepare the ground for the restoration of peaceful relations between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Iraq. We have asked him to avoid participating in procedural and peripheral debates which may lead to wasting time and the lengthing of the existing situation.

It is necessary to stress that a meeting between the presidents of the republics will be suitable and advisable only when the two parties are assured of its positive results. Otherwise, its negative effects may be more damaging than the existing situation.

In view of the negative positions adopted by the Saudi rulers toward the Islamic Revolution of Iran in the past and at present, the territory of the Government of [Saudi] Arabia is not an appropriate place for peace talks at this time. In view of the existence of numerous venues, we will have no difficulty in choosing a suitable venue for the two sides. It would be better if the desired place is chosen on the eve of the talks. I agree with your proposal that our representatives in their preliminary discussions should decide on the venue.

It is natural that in the course of the preliminary talks, the UN secretary general should be informed of the development of talks and at the necessary times and junctures his views and initiative will be made use of for the strengthening of peace. We will refrain from limiting the path of peace to direct talks, as was referred to in [your] second letter; and we will not close other paths including the main path, some of which has already been covered.

In conclusion, I beseech God almighty to provide us with complete success in removing hostility and eradicating the roots of conflict and paving the paths of the two nations and other regional peoples and governments for peace and cooperation aimed at the well-being of the Islamic ummah and jihad against the enemies of Islam and the Muslims, especially the complete liberation of the Islamic Palestinian lands.

My success can only come from God. In him I trust, and unto him I look. [koranic verse]

[Signed] Tehran, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

[Dated] 28 Khordad 1369, corresponding to 24 Dhi-Qa'dat al-Haram [18 June 1990]

'Last' Letter

LD2209204490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1829 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Last letter on peace negotiations from President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn—date not given]

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in the last letter of the peace letters exchanged, while expressing hope for the course of the talks, agreed to receive an Iraqi delegation in Tehran. We draw your attention to the text of this letter:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God for the gifts we enjoy. Verily God gave us gifts and we are grateful.

Honourable President of Iraq, Your Excellency Mr. Saddam Husayn, your excellency's letter of 14 August 1990, was recieved. Your declaration of reacceptance of the 1975 [Algerian] treaty paved the way for implementation of the resolution, solving the dispute within the framework of Resolution 598 and turning the existing ceasefire into a permanent and lasting peace. We regard the start of withdrawal of your forces from Iran's occupied territories as the reason for your sincerity and seriousness in pursuit of peace with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Fortunately, the release of the POW's began at the agreed date, too. We hope that the withdrawal of your soldiers will continue in accordance with the declared schedule and the POW's release from the two sides will proceed and be complete at a much faster pace. As we stated through our representative in Geneva, we are now ready to receive your representatives in Tehran; and we hope that through continuation of the existing positive atmosphere and goodwill, we can reach a comprehensive and lasting peace by safeguarding all the rights and legitimate boundaries [hodud] of the two nations and the two islamic countries.

May peace be upon you. [Signed] 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of Islamic Iran.

Saddam 'Annoyed' With Tehran Over Food Dispatch

TA2109152390 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] It is being said in knowledgeable political circles in Tehran that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is disappointed that the Islamic Republic regime is not acting properly with respect to the covert dispatch of food to Iraq, as was agreed upon secretly by Saddam Husayn and Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The stalled POW exchange is a result of this disappointment. It is said that Saddam Husayn is annoyed at the slow dispatch of food by the Islamic Republic to Iraq and considers this a violation of Rafsanjani's prior commitment.

*Paper on Possible Iraqi Oil Sale to Iran

90AS0458A Paris LES ECHOS in French 17 Sep 90 p 4

[Article by J.-F. P.: "Iraq Hopes To Sell Oil to Iran"]

[Text] **The rapprochement between Iraq and Iran could put a breach in the cordon drawn around Saddam Husayn's country over a month ago.**

Although diplomats remain skeptical about Iran's willingness to violate the embargo against Iraq, hardliners in the Tehran regime seem prepared, with Ayatollah Khamenei's backing, to take that step by purchasing crude oil from Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil fields. Such a move could be carried out in several different ways. Iraq may hope to send some of its crude to Iran in tank trucks, or by connecting its network of oil pipelines to Iraq's network. The most efficient way, however, would be to use ships to deliver Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude directly to an Iranian oil terminal.

This Monday the weekly PETROSTRATEGIES disclosed that three tankers were being loaded up late last week in the Iraqi port of Mina Al-Bahr. Although the blockade prevents them from leaving the Persian Gulf, these vessels would need to travel only a few dozen miles to deliver their cargo to an Iranian port such as Kharg.

Iraqi oil could then be used by Iran for its own consumption, thus increasing Tehran's export capacity. In return, the Islamic republic would supply foodstuffs and medicine to the Baghdad regime.

Such a scheme runs two risks, however. First, it runs counter to the efforts of Tehran's moderates and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to get back in the good graces of the West, whose money is needed to rebuild the Iranian economy. Second, it could be thwarted in the field by an American military reaction. At all events, by raising the threat of an economic alliance with Iraq, Tehran has created a bargaining chip that it can put to good use in its negotiations with the West.

Monday, 17 September 1990.

President Urges Maintenance of Combat Readiness

LD2209111190 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Saturday urged the Armed Forces to maintain their combat readiness and stressed, "as long as we are close to gunpowder in the region our Armed Forces should maintain their required combat readiness."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani was addressing a large gathering of Armed Forces and people at Tehran's 'Azadi' Square where ceremonies of the 'Sacred Defence' Week, marking the anniversary of Iraqi imposed war against Iran (Sept. 22), were held.

"It would be a mistake to think that today is the relaxed day of post-war period," said the president.

He asserted that past experience had taught the nation that any negligence in this connection would have adverse consequences.

"With regard to our knowledge of diabolic forces, it is a must for our Armed Forces to maintain their readiness till the full establishment of security in the region in order to safeguard the country's Islamic and national interests," the president noted.

He lauded resistance of the Armed Forces in the eight-year long Iraqi imposed war and said that Iran owed a major portion of its victory to the bravery of the Armed Forces.

Ground Forces Stage Amphibious Maneuvers

LD2309182490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] On the second day of Defense Week, this morning the green berets of Nowhed 23d Division, and the brave combatants of the ranger training center of the Islamic Republic of Iran ground forces staged a great amphibious maneuver, named Victory Combat, at the Karaj dam reservoir and its surrounding heights. The maneuver was inspected by Brigadier General Hasani-Sa'di, the ground forces commander, and a group of commanders and officials of the religious-political departments of the armed forces. During this maneuver, first a group of paratroopers landed using their parachutes, and afterward the forces demonstrated free-fall operations, joining hands in the air; crossing over three-rope bridges; landing commandos; transporting wounded from the heights; trying to save hostages; attacking a hypothetical enemy coastline by using speedboats; and utilizing various light and heavy weapons. This maneuver will continue for five days.

Soviet MiG-29 Fighters Delivered to Air Force

LD2209181390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Concurrent with the commencement of Holy Defense Week, the first group of Soviet-made MiG-29 fighter bomber planes were put at the service of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force. The planes, which have been delivered to our country in accordance with an agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union, landed at an air base [in Iran] after flying from the country in which they were manufactured. They were met by the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force and a number of Air Force personnel. The planes will begin their operational services in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army after undergoing the relevant technical programs.

Defense Week To End With Anti-U.S. Marches

LD2309181990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] The Council for Coordination of Islamic Publicity, in a statement, has invited various levels of the people, societies, and associations through the country to take part in nationwide marches on 29 September, the last day of Defense Week, which is the symbol of the nation's might, unity, and general readiness to defend the system of the Islamic Republic, to demonstrate their hatred against the satanic and devious presence of American forces in the sensitive and vital region of the Persian Gulf. This council also announced that further details about this march will be brought to the attention of the public in subsequent statements. Anyone with proposals on improving the organization of these ceremonies can contact the the following telephone numbers: 823027 and 823028.

Official on FRG, USSR Nuclear Plant Links

LD2309131790 Tehran IRNA in English 0637 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Vienna, Sept. 23, IRNA—Vice president and head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation (IAEO) Reza Amrollahi on Saturday criticised the West German Government's attitude towards the completion of the Bushehr nuclear power station in southern Iran.

He said in an interview with IRNA that Iran's cooperation with the Soviet Union for setting up of new nuclear plants as a "logical consequence of the unacceptable attitude of West Germany since the (1979) victory of the Islamic revolution. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Amrollahi warned that Iran was waiting for a final decision by the Bonn government on the issue "to take appropriate measures."

West Germany has put off completion of two power plants in Bushehr under various pretexts since 1979 and has also prevented cooperation of other countries such as Spain with Iran for completion of the semi-constructed projects.

The IAEO chief is currently here to take part in the 34th meeting of the general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Pakistan

Further on Ishaq Khan Visit to Beijing

Spokesman Briefs Press 22 Sep

BK2209103490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0200 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Pakistan and PRC bear identical views on various international issuess, including Kashmir, Afghanistan, and the Gulf situation. This was stated by a Pakistani spokesman in a news briefing on the talks between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Chinese Premier Li Peng in Beijing last night. The spokesman said the Pakistani president apprised the Chinese premier of the Kashmir issue. Both the leaders agreed that the Kashmir issue is a historic one, which should be solved peacefully according to the UN resolutions. On Afghanistan, the Chinese premier appreciated Pakistan's attitude toward Afghan refugees and its efforts toward a peaceful and political solution to the issue. On the Gulf crisis, the spokesman said, both the leaders have identical views on the Iraqi aggression and they want Iraq to unconditionally withdraw all its troops from Kuwait. The spokesman said there was full accord between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Chinese Premier Li Peng on bilateral relations and mutual coopertion. The two leaders expressed the determination to adhere to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of one another. The spokesman further said four groups on cooperation in political, defense, economic, and atomic fields were set up during the talks. They exchanged views on several issues, including atomic issues, civil aviation, (?Sinkiang border coopertion), trade relations as well as Kampuchea, Korea, Palestine, and South Africa.

Apprising Radio Pakistan's representative, Syed Abdus Shakoor, of the formal talks, the Pakistani ambassaador to PRC, Akram Zaki, said both the leaders unanimously agreed on the point that interference by any country in the affairs of another cannot be accepted, be it the Iraqi interference in Kuwait or that of the Soviet Union in Afhganistan. They also expressed satisfaction at sufficient increase in bilateral trade. The two leaders agreed to take solid steps to promote overall trade and to increase the trade in various commodities.

Radio Pakistan's representative reports that the president will meet Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Li Xiannian. He will also meet the chairamn of the standing committee of the National People's Congress, Wan Li.

News Conference Held

BK2309165990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has said Pak-China friendship is a model relationship between countries of unequal size and different political and social systems. Addressing a news conference in Beijing before his departure for home, he said the relationship, which has been unaffected by internal changes, is founded on sincere adherence to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. The president said the two sides agreed to intensify and deepen their relations in all fields. They discussed cooperation for increased interaction between Xinjiang and Pakistan's northern region, cooperation in tourism along the historic Karakoram Highway, exploitation of Lakra Gold Mine, and proposals for transfer of technology. They also had advance negotiations on the nuclear power plant offered to Pakistan during Premier Li Peng's visit to Pakistan last year.

The president said he has invited President Yang Shangkun and General Secretary Mr. Jiang Zemin to visit Pakistan and they have accepted the invitation.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said he informed the Chinese leaders of the tense state of Pakistan-India relations as a result of the indigenous uprising of the people in held Kashmir, who were courageously striving for their rights to self-determination that have been promised to them under the UN Security Council resolutions. He said both China and Pakistan are in complete agreement that the Kashmir dispute should be settled peacefully and through negotiations in accordance with international agreements and the Simla accord.

About clashes on the line of control, the president said these were not of a serious nature and no cause for concern. He also ruled out the possibility of a war with India.

On Afghanistan, the two sides agreed that formation of a broad-based government acceptable to a majority of the Afghan people is an essential prerequisite in seeking a final solution of the issue. The Chinese leaders highly commended Pakistan for providing shelter and humanitarian support to Afghan refugees.

On the Gulf situation, there was a total accord in condemning Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait in violation of fundamental principles of international conduct. They supported UN sanctions and called for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty. The president said they supported the move toward a UN-supervised solution of Cambodia and the right of self-determination for the people of Palestine and to their homeland.

Reviewing the international scene, the two sides welcomed recent developments which had led to significant easing of tension in the world.

'Heavy Loss of Life' Inflicted on Indian Troops

BK2209155090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1510 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Pakistani forces foiled an attack of the Indian troops on a Pakistani post in Kel sector along the line of control in Kashmir last night. The Pakistani troops fought valiantly and repulsed the enemy attack and inflicted heavy loss of life on it. According to a press release of the public relations department of the Armed Forces, several artilleries and fortifications of the Indian forces were also damaged. There was unprovoked heavy artillery mortar shelling on some Pakistani posts by the Indian forces yesterday. The Indian troops have been indulging in unprovoked shooting on Kel sector for several weeks. A similar attempt by the Indians on the 12th of last month was foiled by our forces.

The practical use of force by the Indian side is aimed at increasing tension to divert attention from the success of the freedom fighters in the occupied Kashmir. A formal protest was lodged with the UN military observer groups in India and Pakistan.

Yaqub Khan To Address UN Assembly 28 Sep

BK2309172690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has arrived in New York, where he will lead the Pakistani delegation at the 45th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He will address the 160-member Assembly session on Friday. Although greater attention will be paid at the meeting to the situation arising out of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the foreign minister will draw the attention of the members to the situation in occupied Kashmir, where freedom fighters are struggling against Indian forces. Besides, he will also refer to the Afghanistan issue in his address.

In an interview, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that during his talks with several foreign ministers attending the session, he will raise the question of Kashmir also. Besides meeting U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, he will also meet the foreign ministers of the PRC, Japan, and France. He will also have discussions with the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

Premier Urges UN To Send Mission to Kashmir

BK2109155190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathod have urged the United Nations General Assembly [UNGA] president to immediately send to Occupied Kashmir a fact-finding mission which would see for itself the savage killings and violations of human rights by Indian forces there. In a telegram to the UNGA president, he pointed out that since the Kashmir issue is included in the UN agenda on international conflicts, the UNGA should not only take up the issue for discussion, but also take immediate steps to prevent India from violating human rights in Occupied Kashmir.

Nation Reconsiders Cost of French Nuclear Deal

OW2209080290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0743 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 22 KYODO—Pakistan is having second thoughts about buying a 900-megawatt nuclear power plant from France, official sources said Saturday. The country can not afford it, said a senior Foreign Office official, who asked not to be identified.

The deal was finalized during French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Pakistan in February, conditional on financial arrangements being worked out. Pakistan has been seeking to buy a nuclear power plant since 1982.

The official said a French formula for purchase of the plant will be discussed in Paris in coming weeks. "It will be only after these talks that we will be in a position to conclude whether we can afford the plant," which is estimated at 1.5 billion dollars, the official said.

Pakistan is also considering buying a 300 megawatt nuclear power plant from China, however, and official sources in Islamabad were optimistic about that deal. The possible purchase will be discussed during President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's current visit to Beijing.

Pakistan may also buy nuclear submarines from China, the daily NAWA-I-WAQT reported Saturday. "China has already agreed in principle to supply more than one nuclear submarine," the newspaper said. Pakistan has been trying to buy nuclear submarines for its Navy ever since India bought two of them from the Soviet Union last year.

Former Minister Lasi Gets One-Year Sentence

BK2409081090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0200 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Acording to Associated Press of Pakistan, the additional deputy commissioner of (Laspia) sentenced former Minister of State Ghulam Akbar Lasi yesterday with one year imprisonment and a penalty of 3,000 rupees. A case was registered against him under People's Representation Act 1977 for exceeding the prescribed limit of election expenses in the last general elections.

One Dead, 19 Injured in Peshawar Bombing

BK2209142890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKSITAN, a bomb blast in the new Peshawar vegatable market today killed one person and injured 19. The injured include Afghan refugees.